



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
TÂF RHYMNI
TAFF RHYMNEY
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.

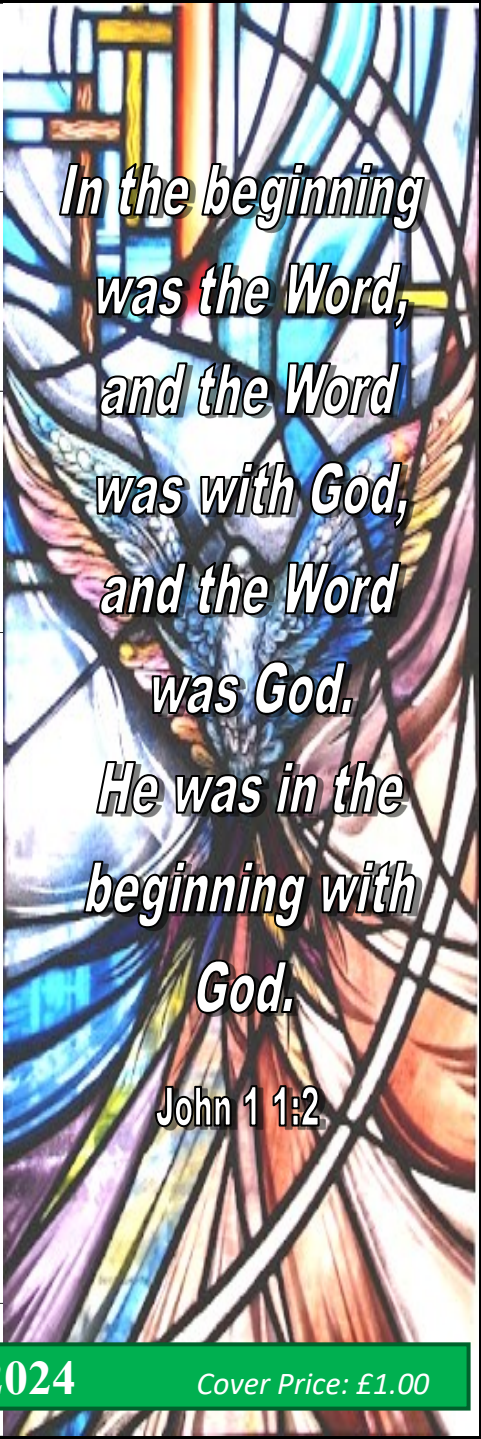
Reader Writes.

District News/Messages.

Mothers' Union.

***Short Quiz on the
Book of Ruth.***

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



***In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word
was with God,
and the Word
was God.
He was in the
beginning with
God.***

John 1 1:2

Edition: No 6

June 2024

Cover Price: £1.00

Who's Who (*District of Gelligaer*)

<u>Priest</u>	<u>Reader</u>
Fr. Gary Powell	Mrs. Carolyn Corbin
Tel: 01443 832119	Tel: 07983 677360
Email: GaryPowell@cinw.org.uk	Email: carolyncorbin63@aol.com

For general enquiries please do not hesitate contact Rev. Gary Powell or one of our wardens.

Ministry Area Leader's Wardens:

Vicar's Warden: Sue Hankins. Tel: 01443 820754
 People's Warden: Louise Lynch. Tel: 01685 552502

District Sub-Wardens:

Vicar's Warden: Christine Thorpe. Tel: 01443 837482
 People's Warden: Huw Thomas. Tel: 01443 836613

Church Wardens

St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer:

Vicar's Warden: Cheryl Pugh. Tel: 01443 837961
 People's Warden: Linda Hall. Tel:

St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach:

Vicar's Warden: Enid Mayne. Tel: 01443 268988
 People's Warden: Jeanette Jones. Tel: 01443 838908

Gift Aid Secretary

& Health & Safety..... Huw Thomas. Tel: 01443 836613

Safeguarding Officer Fr Gary Powell. Tel: 01443 832119

District Treasurer: Jenn East. Tel: 01443 839385

Magazine : Chris Corbin. Tel: 01443 833452
 Email: chriscorbin1961@gmail.com

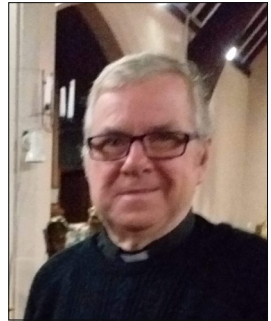
Website: www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk

Facebook Page: https://facebook.com/GelligaerParish/

Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

After just a few days of warm sun the weather seems today to have reverted to type. It is raining again and as I write it is also quite cold. As a result the garden is looking very green and the grass is growing quickly. We are still waiting for the seasons to change. As we wait for better weather the seasons of the churches year continue to roll forward.



On the last Sunday in May we celebrated the Feast of the most Holy and glorious Trinity which marks a major turning point in our keeping of the Churches year. From now until the beginning of Advent we will no longer be focussing on the events of Jesus life, instead we will be focussing upon his teachings and the example he sets before us of Godly living. We will consider his words and actions in order to see how we can better order our own lives. As his disciples we are called to make his words our own, to treat others as we see Jesus treating all those who came to him. As we listen to the Gospel readings for the next sixth months we are called to ask ourselves how does what we are hearing help us to order our lives. Are Jesus' values really our values? Do we always see others as Jesus sees them? When we find ourselves challenged we should stop and ask ourselves what would Jesus do? What would Jesus want us to do or say in this situation?

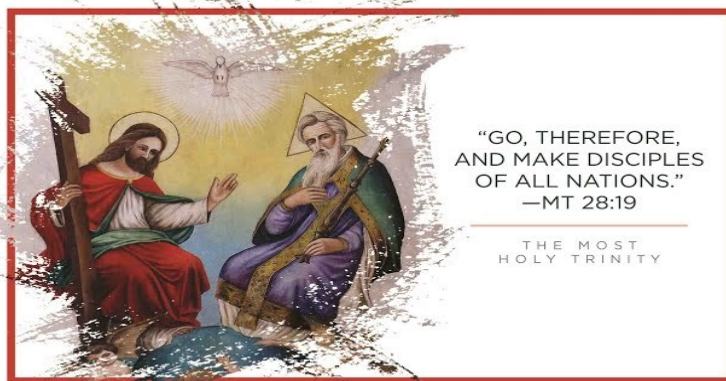
During May the Ministry Area Council met with the Archdeacon. He came to discuss next year's Fairer Share contribution to the Diocese from the Ministry Area. During the discussions he reminded the Ministry Area Council that

we should be working together. He reminded us we are now one Ministry Area, no longer five separate parishes. This is a radical change and is a great challenge to us. Our own local churches are naturally most important to us and we are working to sustain them and safeguard their future. Our Churches are a vital visible presence at the centre of our communities, a physical witness to the presence of God among his people. Through us God reaches out to the wider community and through our activities we seek to bring love, companionship and hope to those who are lonely or in need. I am very grateful to everyone who works so hard to witness to the love of God in our local communities, those who maintain our Churches and our worship, members of the Mothers' Union for all that you do and to members of our Social Committee who organise events which both strengthen our fellowship and reach out to our neighbours in the wider community.

We do it all with Jesus at our head. Following the example of Jesus, living according to his teaching we will be doing his will and growing ever closer to him.

Every blessing from your friend and Priest, Fr Gary.

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



Trinity, the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one God.

Reader Writes.

A few weeks ago, I was visiting family and noticed one cousin was engrossed in the book, “Billionaire Boy” by David Walliams which I borrowed from her.



The story is based on a young boy Joe whose parents are separated and who lives with dad. Thanks to an idea regarding toilet roll his dad has become a billionaire. Joe is very spoilt and his dad thinks the answer to everything is money orientated. Joe is not concerned about the money as all he wants is to be an ordinary little boy with friends who are sadly lacking in his life. In time he realises that money cannot buy happiness and he leaves home to live with a friend. While at the friend’s house, the news comes on the tv explaining how the father’s business has failed and all too soon the bailiffs are removing everything out of the house. As can be imagined, the book closes with Joe’s father admitting that life was better before the money appeared – he had just forgotten and this allows the dad and Joe to find a much happier life.

There are times when perhaps we put our priorities in the wrong order and forget that what appears important may not be as important as something else. In addition, there may be times when something which appears exciting but not important is higher on the to do list than something which is important but not as exciting.

The same scenario can be applied to our family and friends. Some friendships can last a lifetime - these are the friends with whom we have built up a sense of trust, those in whom we can confide, those who see us when we are feeling our best and worst, those with whom we can share our doubts and problems and those who are there when we need them. These are the friends who are the constants in our lives, who keep us firmly grounded and who deserve to be treated in the right manner. These are friends who we do not need to see every day or week and as we know there is one friend we have who we cannot see but who cares for us and guides us in all we do, making sure that we lead our lives as Jesus intended.

Carolyn

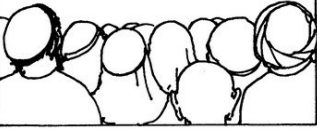
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Ex.19:3-9,20:1-21,24:7,12-18,32:1-25,34:1-9

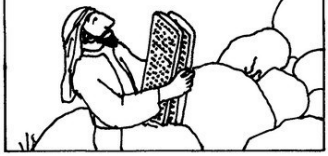
God rescued the Hebrew people from
Egypt and led them to Sinai mountain.
There He offered them a contract . . .

Keep My rules, and you will
be My people and I will be
your God and protect you.



We promise to do
what You tell us
and worship only You.

Moses climbed the mountain.
God gave him two stone slabs
with the contract on them.



Then God and
Moses talked . . . for
40 days and nights

Meanwhile . . .



Aaron, that Moses isn't coming back. We
can't worship something we can't see.



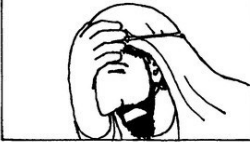
Make us
something we
can worship

So Aaron made a gold bull
and the people went wild.

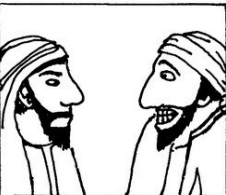


God told Moses . . .

Your people are already
worshipping a statue.



Moses was so angry he
smashed the contract
slabs



It's not my fault,
they made me do it.

God, please, please
forgive Your people.



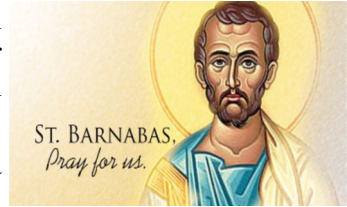
So God forgave His people and gave
Moses two more contract slabs.



Barnabas

Paul's first missionary companion

Would you have liked to go to Cyprus on holiday this year? If so, spare a thought for the Cypriot who played such a key role in the New Testament.



He was Joseph, a Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, who is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the Early Church was sharing a communal lifestyle. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, 'Son of Encouragement'.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first cled Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to 'set aside' Barnabas and Paul, and to send them out on the church's first ever 'missionary journey'. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and then travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So, if you go to Cyprus and see churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

In Wales there are 6 church dedicated to St. Barnabas, these being Gilfach Goch, Penygraig, Rhandirmwyn, Swansea, Velindre, Waunarlwydd. Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people – no wonder he should be remembered with love.

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

John the Baptist



Preparing the way for the Messiah.

John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman. He was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.

John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request. When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.

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

Maximus of Turin, first Bishop of Turin

When many of us think of a 'Maximus', we remember the popular film *Gladiator* and Russell Crowe starring as a Roman general who ends up as a slave successfully defying the Emperor.

But Maximus of Turin, the first Bishop of Turin, also led a tumultuous life in fighting evil. He had seen violence and suffering when in 397 he witnessed the martyrdom of Sisinnius, Martyrius and Alexander, three missionary bishops in Italy.

The following year, 398, great trouble came to Northern Italy when it was swept by barbarian incursions. Turin soon filled up with soldiers and refugees seeking safety. Maximus challenged the wealthy landowners of the city to use their fine estates and houses to help

relieve the suffering of those in need. He also told them not to seek profit from the unrest, but instead to use their wealth to redeem prisoners of war.

All in all, Maximus of Turin risked his own life to act as guardian of the city. One historian has recorded that he "governed his flock wisely and successfully" during those terrible days of invasion, widespread panic and death.

Remarkably, more than 100 of Maximus' sermons still survive. They reveal him to have been a passionate evangelist, standing up to rural paganism, and stressing the importance of Christians knowing their faith. His writings and sermons did much to help the spread and consolidation of Christianity in Northern Italy.

Maximus of Turin even has a link with us: he is thought to have consecrated St Patrick as Bishop, on Patrick's return journey from Rome to Ireland.

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

St Gudwal, the first Christian in Brittany?

If you would love to be in Brittany for your holiday this summer, then spare a thought for Gudwal, because this obscure 6th century Celtic abbot got there before you did. Indeed, Gudwal seems to have liked Brittany so much that he decided to stay on. When you visit Brittany today, you will find Catholic churches everywhere. Not so in the sixth century – when only the extraordinary range of megalithic monuments dominated the landscape. There were (and still are) passage dolmens, stepped pyramids and stone circles. The best known site is Carnac, where remains of a dozen rows of huge standing stones run for over ten kilometres. Some of the megalithic ruins in the gulf of Morbihan date back to at least 3300 BC – that is 200 years older than Stonehenge.

Religion was certainly plentiful in Brittany, back then. But Gudwal was one of the earliest pioneers of Christianity in the region. He did a bit of 6th century 'church planting', too - when he decided to build a hermitage in the middle of all that paganism – probably at Locoal. In time, 188 monks came to join him, and they built a little monastery – probably at Guer. But it was the man himself – his holiness and kindness – that drew people's attention more than the buildings. A man of deep spirituality and prayer, Gudwal willingly spent himself on helping the local people – it was said that he healed many by his prayers for them.

Notices from our Churches and Community

100 Club Winners!

April 2024

7th	70	Mair Hammond	St. Margaret's
14th	2	Christopher Hunt	St. Margaret's
21st	41	Jeanette Jones	St. Margaret's
28th	87	Pauline Viles	St. Catwg's

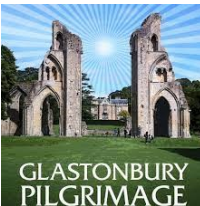
Getting Involved during 2024

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) 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.

Glastonbury Pilgrimage



This year the Glastonbury Pilgrimage celebrates its centenary and takes place on Saturday, 13th July with the preacher being the Right Rev'd Dr Rowan Williams. If anyone would like to experience the joys of joining with people from many parts of the country for celebrating the Mass and being part of the Pilgrimage through the streets of Glastonbury either by walking or watching, please put your names on the lists that are at the back of each church. Further details such as the cost will be available once I have a better idea of numbers who wish to go. If anyone would like more information about the day,

please see Carolyn.

Strawberry Tea



The social committee are holding their annual Strawberry Tea on Saturday 29th June.

The event will be held at Neuadd St. Catwg Community Hall starting at 3.00pm. The cost of a ticket will be £6.00 and will be available from both church.

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

“Murder Mystery”

Our Murder Mystery night will be held on Wednesday 11th. September at Neuadd St. Catwg Community Hall, starting at 7.00pm.

If there are any budding actors and actresses out there who would like to join in our “Murder Mystery” event please give your names to Linda Bartlett St. Margaret’s or Cheryl Pugh. St. Catwg’s, or June Phillips. More details will be available near the event.



Social Committee

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



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>

July’s Magazine 2024

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 24th June, for inclusion in the July’s edition.

Many Thanks Chris (email: chriscorbin1961@gmail.com)

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’: Johannes S Bach



‘Surprised by Joy’ is the title C S Lewis gave to his spiritual autobiography. To him, joy meant not just the name of the woman he eventually married, but also an awareness of God’s glory and goodness. It was something that, like Wordsworth, he experienced in childhood, and later in his thirties when his faith was relit. That experience of joy Jesus shared with His disciples at the Last Supper: it is a

word that permeates chapters 16 and 17 of St John’s Gospel.

And it is a word that lies at the heart of the music of J S Bach. Whenever he set Freude, the German word for joy, his music rises to a new level of movement and excitement. The joy is there, not just as a word set to music, but as the heart and life of all his compositions. Almost a thousand works with many for church worship: two Passions, three oratorios, six motets, a Magnificat, a great mass setting, nearly 200 church cantatas, 143 chorale preludes for organ, and dozens of other works – and that is just the music we have, for much has been lost.

When Bach moved to Leipzig in 1723, he had the task as choirmaster of composing cantatas for each Sunday of the year for five years, as well as looking after the choir, teaching, and tending his own family. And all with a reduced salary and social status, dreary living conditions, and a choir that was ill-fed and badly housed. The miracle is that he produced work of such beauty and wonder and grace. There is a logic and a technical precision behind his music, but also a living pulse. One moment he can reach into the depths of the soul as it faces the realities of sin, death and judgment. The next, it is ecstasy and joy at the birth and resurrection of Christ.

Next month we continue our look at Bach’s music.

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

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.

Wonders of the Living World

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like ‘your genetic blueprint’ or ‘survival of the fittest’, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

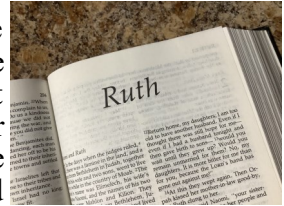
‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there’s an overarching physical law we don’t yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to Old Testament books: Ruth

The book of Ruth is a story of God's grace operating in difficult circumstances, during the period of the Judges. It unfolds as a four-act drama, telling the story of how Naomi, her husband and two sons left Judah for Moab, where her sons married. When Naomi's husband and sons died, she returns to Bethlehem in Judah.



In the first act, Naomi tells her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to stay in Moab. However, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi and accompanies her to Bethlehem (chapter 1). In the next act Ruth meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi, while gathering barley in his fields (chapter 2).

The third act takes place at the threshing floor where Boaz is asleep and Ruth lies at his feet. She expresses her desire to marry him, as her kinsman-redeemer. But Boaz tells her of another prior claim (chapter 3). Finally, at the city gate, the other relative renounces his claim, and Boaz marries Ruth (chapter 4).

In Ruth's story we see God's unseen hand directing the lives of the characters to accomplish his purpose e.g. *'Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning'* (1:22). He transforms Naomi's sorrow into joy, rewarding Ruth with a place of honour in Israel's history. In Boaz, we see a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus Christ, as he pays the price to secure Ruth's future.

'In its artful telling of this 'outsider' widow, uprooted and obscure, who turns out to be the great-grandmother of David and the ancestor of Jesus, the book of Ruth makes it possible for each of us to understand ourselves, however ordinary, as irreplaceable in the full telling of God's story'. (Eugene Peterson).

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

Don't fool me

A three-year-old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, "Sam, your shoes are on the wrong feet." He looked up at her and said, "Don't kid me, Mum, I KNOW they're my feet."



Mothers' Union



I begin with thanks to everyone from Mothers' Union who attended Gaynor's funeral. She was a lovely lady and a staunch member of our branch. Since Covid life was not at all easy for Gaynor. She said she was lucky to have celebrated her 80th birthday with us all in the January before lockdown and what a good time we all had. Her funeral was well attended and the church was packed. Fr. Gary did a lovely service, very befitting for her. She was kind and funny and had enjoyed her life until the illness set in. She was always interested in what was going on in church and interested in everyone's family. Her family had been wonderful to her and she was so glad that Bethan, her grand-daughter was living in her bungalow. We have missed her since covid as she was such a good secretary, organising speakers, quizzes, luncheon clubs – all events she enjoyed. May she rest in peace.

We continue to pray for Olive, who is housebound, Marion who is permanently in Ty Clyd and Glynis who is also there. I haven't been able to get to see them yet but hope to when hospital appointments etc. settle down. I know Jenn and Lynne have been to Ty Clyd and said how Glynis and Marion are settled there. Thank you both for that.

At our meeting in June we have David Kitchen coming to give a talk. Jane assured me that he is very good so I hope as many as possible will turn up to listen to him. Also the Colour Fayre at the end of June is something we have to organise. Unfortunately it falls on the same day as our Strawberry Tea, but we already have volunteers to help at one or both. Thanks to the youngsters who are cleaning the church, giving us a break and for volunteering to pack the parcels for the Fayre. We have decided to pack a lot of the items left over from our Autumn Fayre. It will then be a raffle with a charge for a ticket and hopefully we will be able to raise a fair amount for the caravan. Any volunteers for this will be gratefully accepted.

Another month of our meetings, coffee mornings and quiz afternoons, which are a staple of our fund raising and community events, enjoyed by everyone. I wish you all good health and look forward to seeing you all at our events.

God bless

Kath

Evelyn Underhill, mystical writer of the 20th century



For anyone interested in Christian mysticism, Evelyn Underhill may be a good place to begin. She died on 10th June 1941 after a life full of remarkable achievements: author of more than 30 books that explored the intersection between the spiritual and the physical, the first woman ever to lecture to the CofE clergy, the first woman to conduct spiritual retreats for the Church, the first woman to establish ecumenical links between churches, and one of the first women theologians to lecture in English universities. Evelyn was also an award-winning bookbinder.

Born in 1875, the daughter of a barrister from Wolverhampton, and then wife to a childhood friend, also a barrister, Evelyn moved in cultured, educated circles, and travelled widely each summer along the Mediterranean – both her father and husband were keen yachting enthusiasts.

Evelyn's inner, spiritual journey was more complex: from agnosticism to theism, on to Neoplatonism and then Roman Catholicism she went, until in 1921 she became an Anglican - with a later fascination for the Greek Orthodox church. Her daily life was one of reading, writing, and doing various forms of religious work, from visiting the poor to counselling people in trouble.

Her spiritual search began in childhood, after a number of "abrupt experiences of the peaceful, undifferentiated plane of reality—like the 'still desert' of the mystic—in which there was no multiplicity nor need of explanation". Trying to understand these mystical experiences sparked her passion and lifelong quest.

Evelyn became one of the most widely read writers on mysticism in the first half of the 20th century. Her greatest book, *Mysticism: A Study of the Nature and Development of Man's Spiritual Consciousness*, was published in 1911, and is romantic, engaged, and theoretical rather than historical or scientific. While writing it she came into contact with Baron Friedrich von Hugel, who became her spiritual mentor for many years. He gradually steered her away from mysticism and towards a more Christocentric view of reality.

During World War I Evelyn worked in naval intelligence, but in later years became a Christian pacifist.

The wonderful world of Ladybird Books...

I'm really excited about a new exhibition running at my local museum this summer. It promises to prompt joyful memories of childhood for many older people – and maybe remind them of when they first learnt about Jesus.

'The Wonderful World of the Ladybird Artists' aims to "uncover the story of the talented artists who illustrated Ladybird books for more than 30 years." It's a fascinating exhibition that has already been staged in cities from Canterbury to Northumberland and is at the St Albans Museum until 8th September.



The organisers say: "This colourful, family-friendly exhibition includes rare books, original artwork and artefacts, and reveals how illustrators played such an enormous role in Ladybird's extraordinary success."

Ladybird Books also played a vital role in thousands of Sunday Schools and churches in the UK and many other English-speaking countries from the 1940s until well into the 1970s.

For many children and young people, these books were their first introduction to the Bible, with numerous parents, grandparents and carers reading them as bedtime stories. 'Easy Reading' versions helped many children read about Jesus for themselves.

I've been collecting some of the Bible-based copies of the Ladybird books from local charity shops, with titles such as 'Stories about Jesus the Helper,' 'Children of the Bible' and 'Two Stories Jesus Told,' featuring the classic parables, the Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son. I've been struck by the faithful retelling of the Bible stories, and the quality of the illustrations.

These colourful books were a staple of many Scripture classes and Sunday School prize-giving and helped form the Biblical understanding of a generation of children. Today, the books have become very collectible, with prices on the rise.

Ladybird books were, naturally, a product of their times with, for example, the skin tones of Jesus and the apostles often lighter than what reality might have been. The books were produced for a time when Bible stories were more widely known, and families were routinely depicted as mum, dad, a son and a daughter.

In recent years, more bizarre incarnations of Ladybird Books – such as 'The Ladybird Book of the Zombie Apocalypse' – have introduced new audiences to the Ladybird style, with an ironic, comic twist.

Personally, I much prefer the originals!

Revd Peter Crumpler.

The Euros 24



A former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

This month sees the start of the UEFA Euro 24 football tournament, which will be watched by millions across Europe and the world. Yet it also illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes:

'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with Him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the Euros you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is undeserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win Euro 24, they need to have trained hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we must train ourselves to say no to the wrong things in our lives.

As we build up our godly muscles, we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

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

Newspaper headlines where you know what they meant, but....!

- Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
- Man Struck by Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
- New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
- Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
- Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
- Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors

Short quiz on the Book Ruth

(answers on page 23)

1. Why did Elimelech go to live in Moab with his family?
 - a. Disagreement with his town leaders;
 - b. Famine in his home town;
 - c. Distant relatives invited him
2. What happened to Elimelech in Moab?
 - a. He died;
 - b. He left his wife;
 - c. He was killed by the King of Moab
3. What relationship was Ruth to Naomi?
 - a. Daughter;
 - b. Granddaughter;
 - c. Daughter-in-law
4. Who said "your God shall be my God"?
 - a. Naomi;
 - b. Ruth;
 - c. Orpah
5. What did Naomi tell the people in Bethlehem to call her?
 - a. Sara;
 - b. Rachel;
 - c. Mara
6. Who was Boaz?
 - a. Kinsman of Elimelech;
 - b. Kinsman of Naomi;
 - c. Town mayor
7. Why did Boaz allow Ruth to glean in his field?
 - a. He was short of workers;
 - b. She was beautiful;
 - c. She had looked after Naomi
8. What was Boaz doing at the threshing floor?
 - a. Threshing grain;
 - b. Winnowing barley;
 - c. Treading grapes
9. What did Ruth do while Boaz was sleeping?
 - a. Uncovered his feet and lay down;
 - b. Gently woke him up;
 - c. Covered his head and sat next to him
10. How did the townspeople regard Ruth?
 - a. As a beautiful woman;
 - b. As a virtuous woman;
 - c. As a caring woman
11. Why does the kinsman not want to marry Ruth?
 - a. Didn't like her;
 - b. Already married;
 - c. Didn't want to spoil inheritance
12. What was taken off and handed over to signify the agreement between Boaz and the kinsman?
 - a. Robe;
 - b. Sandal;
 - c. Ring
13. What was the name of Ruth's son?
 - a. Obed;
 - b. Boaz;
 - c. Jesse
14. What was the name of Ruth's great-grandson?
 - a. Jesse;
 - b. David;
 - c. Solomon

-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. Services and Holy Days - June 2024</i>	
<i>2nd</i>	THE FIRST SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>9th</i>	THE SECOND SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>11th</i>	* Barnabas, Apostle
<i>16th</i>	THE THIRD SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>20th</i>	* Alban, Julius and Aaron
<i>23rd</i>	THE FOURTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>24th</i>	* The Nativity of John the Baptist
<i>29th</i>	* Peter, Apostle or Peter and Paul, Apostles
<i>30th</i>	THE FIFTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
	<i>* signifies a Saints day</i>

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!!*



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/>

then sign up to the mailing list, found half way down the page.

Quotes for June 2024.

some observations on our Christian pilgrimage...

God knows what He is going to make of us. – **James Montgomery Boice**

Godliness is nothing but Godlikeness. – **George Swinnock**

Goodness is the only investment that never fails. – **Henry D Thoreau**

some miscellaneous light-hearted observations on life:

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. – **Ben Williams**

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis. – **Anon**

If at first you succeed, break it and start over again. – **Anon**

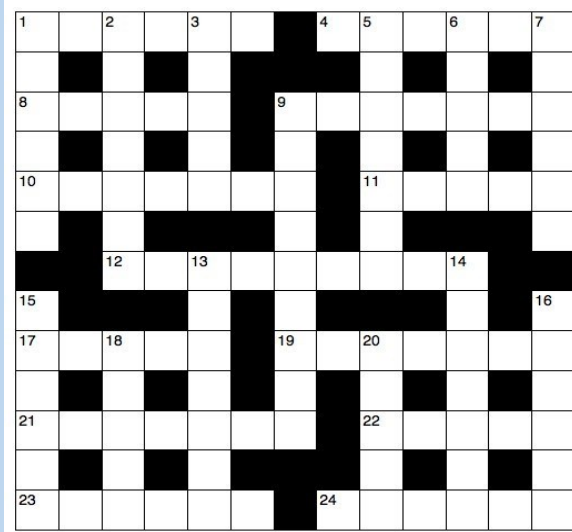
Our grandchildren are going to have a hard time paying for the good times we didn't have. – **Anon**

Sudoku Challenge

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Solution can be found on page 39



Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 ‘When Moses’ hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it’ (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes’ harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 ‘I have just got — , so I can’t come’: one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

Crossword solution - Page 39

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

Quiz on the Book of Ruth.

Answers:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Q 1</i> Famine in his home town (Ruth 1:1) | <i>Q 8</i> Winnowing barley (3:2) |
| <i>Q 2</i> He died (1:3) | <i>Q 9</i> Uncovered his feet and lay down (3:7) |
| <i>Q 3</i> Daughter-in-law (1:22) | <i>Q 10</i> As a virtuous woman (3:11) |
| <i>Q 4</i> Ruth (1:16) | <i>Q 11</i> Didn't want to spoil inheritance (4:5-6) |
| <i>Q 5</i> Mara (1:20) | <i>Q 12</i> Sandal (4:7-8) |
| <i>Q 6</i> Kinsman of Elimelech (2:1) | <i>Q 13</i> Obed (4:17) |
| <i>Q 7</i> She had looked after Naomi (10-11) | <i>Q 14</i> David (4:17) |

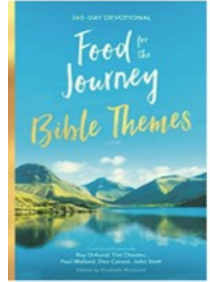
Book Reviews

Food for the Journey Bible Themes: 365-Day Devotional

Various Authors, Edited Elizabeth McQuoid, IVP, £25.99

This book provides Bible readings for the whole year from trusted Bible teachers at the Keswick Convention.

Featuring well-known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Don Carson, Jonathan Lamb, Peter Maiden and many more, it offers daily encouragement to draw closer to God through His Word.

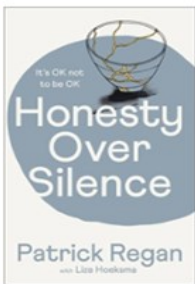


The book is an omnibus of the Food for the Journey Themes series, with a theme for each month of the year. It features three brand new themes that are only available in this volume: Grace, Suffering and The Holy Spirit.

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

Honesty Over Silence – it's OK not to be OK

By Patrick Regan, SPCK, £9.99



This book opens the conversation on spirituality and mental health in a way that shows you that you are not alone.

Honesty Over Silence tackles topics that many find difficult, such as trusting God when life is painful, dealing with anxiety and depression, learning to look after ourselves, developing our character, and living with thankful hearts even in tough seasons. It examines our strength in letting go of our need to be in control, as well as looking at how we can stop comparing ourselves to others, and instead live authentically and honestly as we grow into the people God has created us to be.

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 Readers Rota

St. Catwg's Readers Rota					
May 2024		June 2024		July 2024	
5 th	Cheryl Pugh	2 nd	Pat Davies	7 th	Joan Jenkins
12 th	Janeve Manca	9 th	Paul Thomas	14 th	Pat Davies
19 th	Christine Harvey	16 th	Cheryl Pugh	21 st	Paul Thomas
26 th	Joan Jenkins	23 rd	Janeve Manca	28 th	Cheryl Pugh
		30 th	Christine Harvey		

St. Margaret's Readers Rota

St. Margaret's Readers Rota					
May 2024		June 2024		July 2024	
5 th	June Phillips	2 nd	Kath Llewellyn	7 th	June Phillips
12 th	Christine Thorpe	9 th	Jenn East	14 th	Neil Hazell
19 th	Enid Mayne	16 th	Jennette Jones	21 st	Alex Ball
26 th	Huw Thomas	23 rd	Linda Bartlett	28 th	Enid Mayne
		30 th	Lynne Thomas		

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

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota								
May 2024			June 2024			July 2024		
5	Jennette	Audrey	2	Kath	June	7	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
12	Kath	June	9	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	14	Lynda Trollope	Enid
19	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	16	Lynda Trollope	Enid	21	Jennette	Audrey
26	Lynda Trollope	Enid	23	Jennette	Audrey	28	Kath	June
			30	Kath	June			

From the Register

Christian Funerals

May 2024

2nd	Mervyn Davies RIP
14th	Enid Harris RIP
16th	Gaynor Harris RIP
24th	Derek Harwood RIP
29th	Glenn Evans 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

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

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.*

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

*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
Salt
and
Light

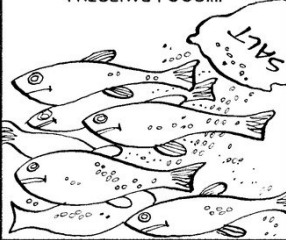


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

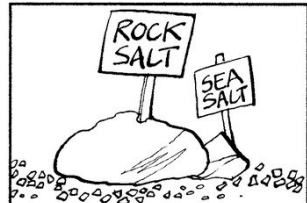


HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS
FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A
BIT LIKE SALT!

IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS
VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED
PRESERVE FOOD....

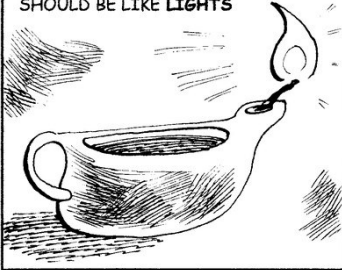


....AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR.
IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED



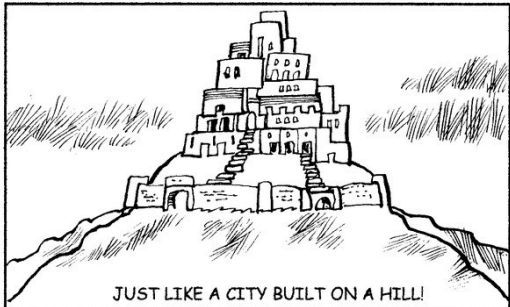
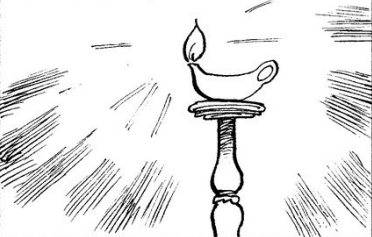
SALT HELPED MAKE LIFE
BETTER - WE TOO SHOULD HELP
MAKE LIFE BETTER IF WE
CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS!

JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS
SHOULD BE LIKE LIGHTS

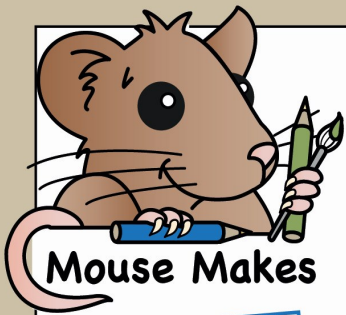


'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS
IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS

THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS
CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE
TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



JUST LIKE A CITY BUILT ON A HILL!



Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
MPWF UIF GBUIFS
IBT HJWFO UP VT
UIBU XF TIPVME
CF DBMMFE
DIJMESFO PG HPE
POF KPJO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

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

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3



This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates: "Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

ROTAS
OPERA
TENET
AREPO
SATOR

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
SON • DAUGHTER
JOSEPH • ISAAC
MOSES • JOB
SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH
ZEBEDEE

Complete the Wordsearch!

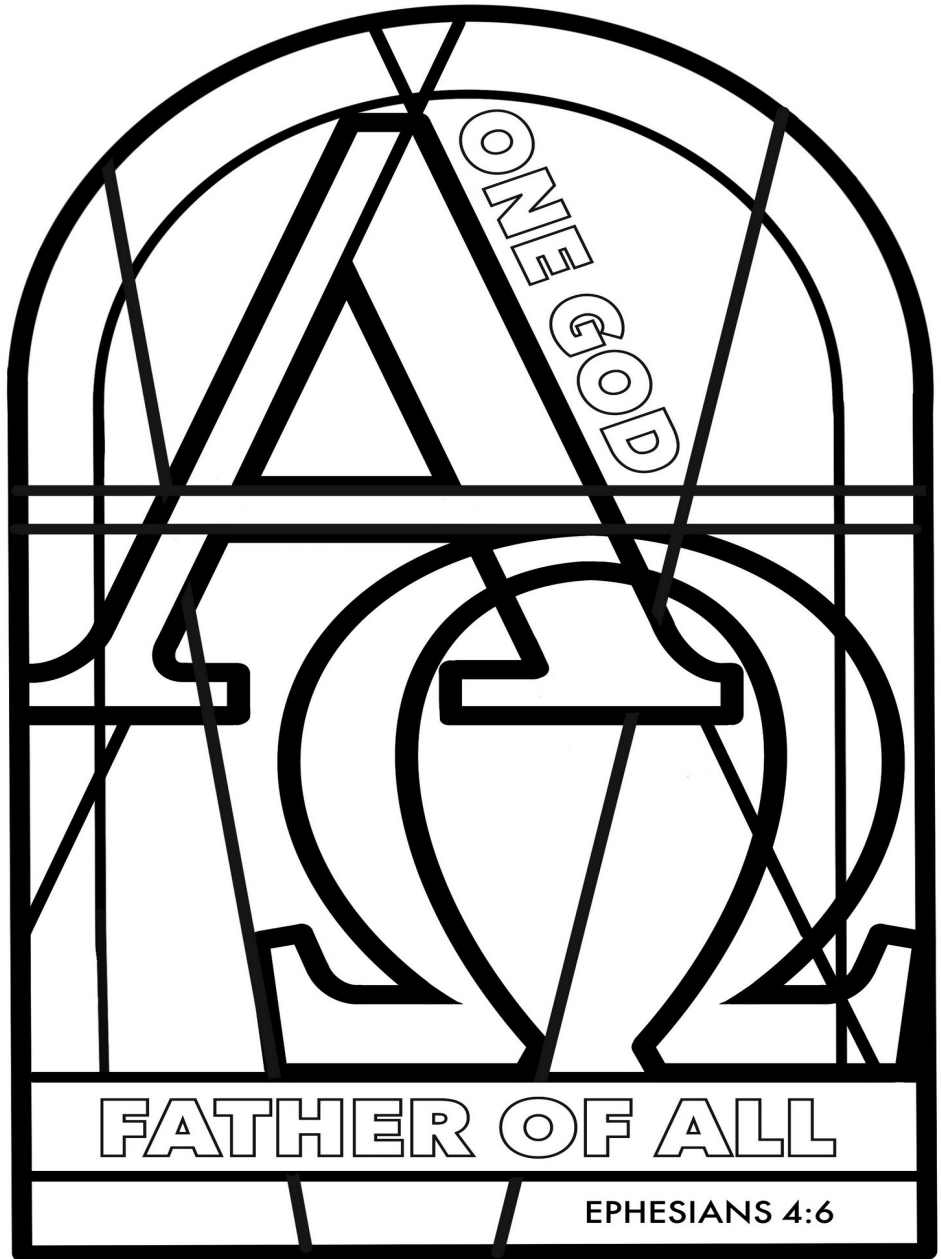
p	e	o	p	l	e	s	i	n	a	i	c
p	r	o	t	e	c	t	a	n	g	r	y
b	u	o	f	a	u	l	t	p	o	h	b
a	l	g	m	a	k	e	i	s	d	e	u
c	e	o	j	i	b	h	t	m	e	b	r
k	s	l	a	b	s	c	j	u	b	r	s
z	n	d	k	r	a	e	t	i	d	e	q
q	a	f	o	r	g	a	v	e	s	w	d
h	a	w	t	a	t	u	k	o	w	b	f
r	r	n	j	s	o	l	m	w	n	a	s
m	o	u	n	t	a	i	n	b	m	y	q
c	n	o	s	t	o	n	e	g	y	p	t

forgave
 stone
 angry
 worship
 Moses
 people
 back
 slabs

promise
 gold
 talked
 climbed
 mountain
 Egypt
 contract
 Aaron

statue
 Hebrew
 Sinai
 protect
 fault
 God
 make
 rules

Colour in!



Local Business Adverts



Bargoed Sight Centre




A full range of Eye Care services
including Sight Tests, Spectacles and Contact
Lenses for children and adults.


CONTACT DETAILS

26 Hanbury Road, Bargoed CF81 8QT

Tel: 01443 830750 Fax: 01443 879544

Website: www.bargoedsightcentre.co.uk

 BargoedSightCentre

 @bargoedsc

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday

9.30am-5.30pm

Saturday

9.30am-1.30pm

Closed

Sunday & Bank Holidays

D. Emlyn Lloyd



Ironmonger, Builders' Merchant

Sheffield House 32, Bedwlwyn Rd,

Ystrad Mynach,

Hengoed, CF82 7AD

Tel: 01443 813261

TURN TO US FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

**In your time of need we'll take care
of all the funeral arrangements.**

Call us 24 hours a day

- Funeral Pre-Payment Plans
 - Memorials
 - Service Chapel
- Monumental Masonry

D J THOMAS & SONS

Funeral Directors

The Private Chapel
Lower Wood Street,
Bargoed.

CF81 8NW

Tel: 01443 831044



Part of Dignity plc. A British Company



Stanley J. Nicholas Ltd

“The Paddocks”

ALL FAITHS CATERED FOR
Prepaid Funeral Plans
Golden Charter
The Perfect Choice
Modern Fleet of Cars
Private Chapel of Rest
Compassion & Discretion at all Times

Your independent & family firm providing a complete dignified caring service in the Blackwood and Bargoed areas

Email:- info@sjnicholas.co.uk

Web:- www.sjnicholas.co.uk

“The Paddocks”

New Road, Pengam, Blackwood. NP12 3QZ

also at

92 Commercial Street, Aberbargoed, Bargoed,
Caerphilly. CF81 9EU

and

202 High Street, Blackwood. NP12 1AJ

Tel: (01443) 830328

JOHN DAVIES AND SONS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Beechwood, Park Terrace,
Treharris, Treharris
CF46 6BT


2 The Shopping Centre,
St Cattwgs Avenue, Gelligaer
CF82 8FD

Nelson Business Centre
Commercial Street, Nelson
CF46 6NF

An independent family run funeral directors established in the early 1900's, serving Treharris, Nelson, Gelligaer, Hengoed, Ystrad Mynach and all surrounding areas

Private Chapel of Rest | 280 Seater Chapel | Funeral Plans | Memorial Masonry



 01443 410224 / 822826

 info@johndaviesandsons.co.uk

Maenordy Llancaiach Fawr Manor



Tours

Restaurant

Gift Shop

01443 412248 www.llancaiachfawr.co.uk

LLEWELLYN'S CAR SALES (BARGOED) LTD

The Showroom, Gwerthonor Place,
Gilfach, Bargoed,
Caerphilly,
Mid Glamorgan,
CF81 8JP
Tel: 01443 838383
www.llewellynsgarage.co.uk

Opening Times

Monday	09:00 - 18:00
Tuesday	09:00 - 18:00
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



Morgan Thomas

Quality Butcher

*Prime meat from our own farms,
fresh fruit and vegetables,
fresh bread and milk daily.*

**2, The Square
Penpedairheol.
01443 830492**



Local Deliveries



If you or someone you know of
would like to advertise their
business in our magazine please
to not hesitate to contact the
magazine editor on
07983 754610

or

chriscorbin1961@gmail.com



Neuadd St. Catwg Community Hall

Church Road, Gelligaer. CF82 8FW

.....
Excellent facilities in Gelligaer, located opposite
St. Catwg's Church.

It is ideal for:

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

facilities available include:

Fully equipment kitchen, audio visual equipment, stage with disabled access, tables & chairs, conference/meeting room, fully disabled access, disabled toilet and baby changing facilities on site.

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

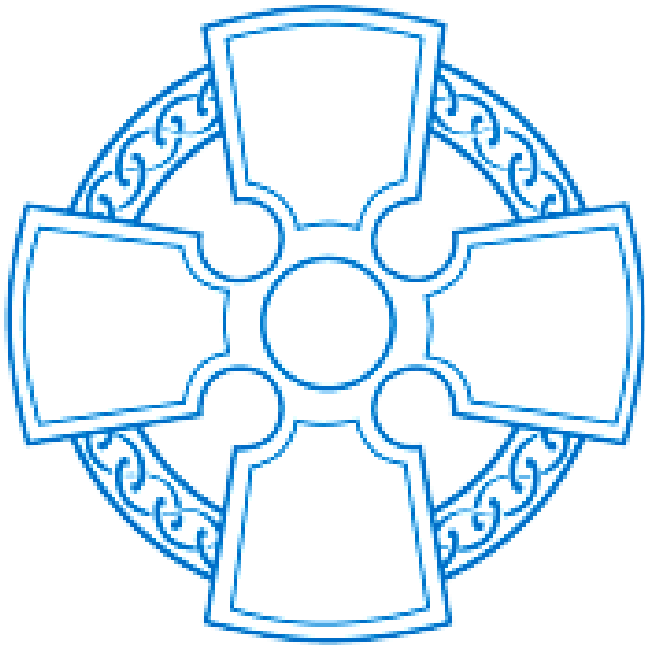
10.00 am. Holy Eucharist at St. Catwg's Church

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.



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
TÂF RHYMNI
TAFF RHYMNEY
MINISTRY AREA



*This Publication was produced and printed by the Taff Rhymney Ministry Area,
District of Gelligaer. 2024*