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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.*

## **Remembrance Sunday**

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

*Greetings from the Rectory.*

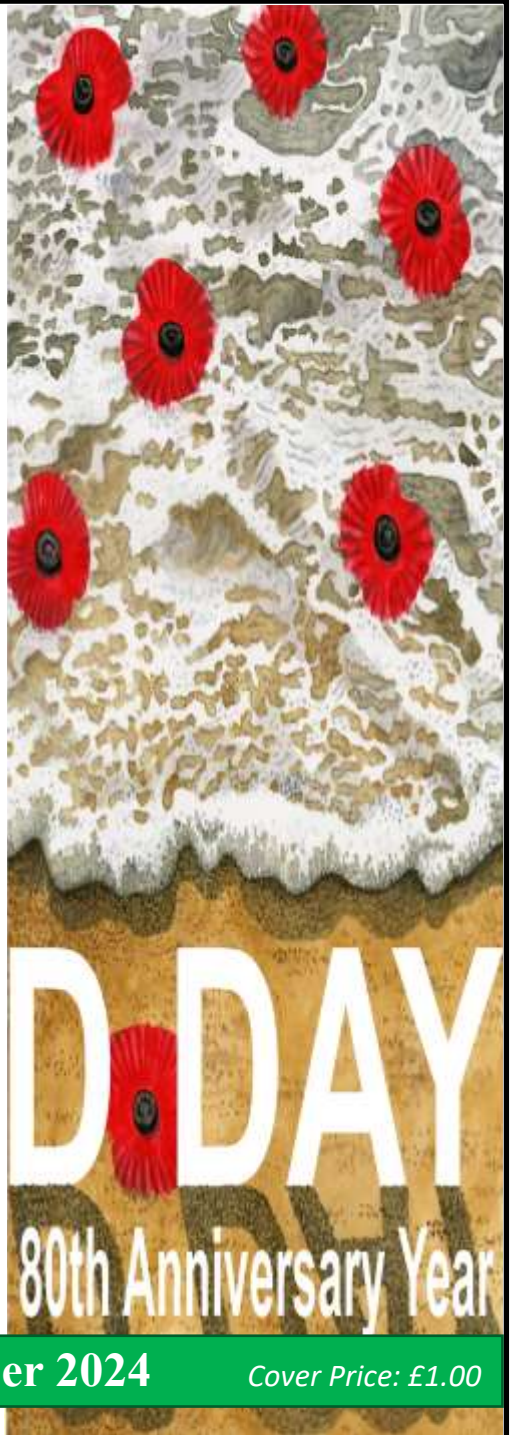
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*Quiz on St Luke's Gospel*

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



*Edition: No 11*

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## Who's Who (*District of Gelligaer*)

<u>Priest</u>	<u>Reader</u>
<b>Fr. Gary Powell</b>	<b>Mrs. Carolyn Corbin</b>
Tel: 01443 832119	Tel: 07983 677360
<b>Email:</b> GaryPowell@cinw.org.uk	<b>Email:</b> 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 of Gelligaer 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: 01443 833961

#### *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,*

I would like to thank you all for your cards and kind thoughts as my mother's funeral took place at the end of September. I really have felt held and carried by your prayers and care.



During October I enjoyed a restful holiday in Rhodes which I had never visited before. It was a beautiful island, the weather and the hotel were lovely and I had a very relaxing time. It is good, though, to be back among you as we begin to look ahead to Advent, Christmas and the end of the year.

One of the first things I enjoyed on my return was our annual Autumn Fayre. I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the Fayre such a successful event. We raised just under One Thousand Pounds which is a wonderful achievement especially given the current economic difficulties we are experiencing at the present time. It was lovely to see so many people there, all enjoying themselves.

This month we celebrate the last season of the Churches year – the Kingdom Season. We celebrate the Kingship of Jesus Christ over all creation and the Kingdom of Heaven. We give thanks that Jesus has called us to live as citizens of his Kingdom and to help build his Kingdom in this little part of his creation that he has entrusted to us. Finally we look forward to the time when he will come again in glory

and his Kingdom will be established in all its glory throughout the world.

As we celebrate the presence of the Kingdom of God in the world today we are reminded of the first coming of Christ at Christmas which is not too far away. December is nearly upon us and it is always a busy month. I would ask you to keep a close eye on our church magazine and newsletter and our church website and facebook page to see all that is happening. We will be holding our usual services of "A Candle to Remember", Nine Lessons and Carols. Christmas services will be confirmed shortly. I look forward to welcoming you to our various celebrations. Please invite family members, friends and neighbours to join us at this very special time of the year.

Please take care and keep safe.

Every blessing, your friend and priest.

**Fr Gary.**

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## **Christmas Greetings/Messages 2024**

If anyone wishes to place a Christmas Greeting in the December magazine, could you please email your greeting/message to me at [chriscorbin1961@gmail.com](mailto:chriscorbin1961@gmail.com) or pass a written version to Carolyn, by Monday 25th November. Donations for the Christmas greetings may be given to: Cheryl or Linda (St. Catwg's)  
Jeanette or Enid (St. Margaret's).

**Thankyou.**

## Reader Writes.

Hi all,

One of my favourite authors is Sophie Kinsella, whose books never fail to put a smile on my face. In her novel, 'The Party Crasher' we learn that the family home is to be sold. The family consisted of mum, dad and three children. Sadly, not long after the youngest child was born, their mother died and in time the father remarried. The youngest child could see no fault in their stepmother, who treated them all as her own whereas the two older children, when growing up, could see when things were not going quite right. When the three children had become adults, the father met another lady and the youngest of the children could not accept her whereas her brother and sister made a bit more of an effort to get to know her. As the time came for the house to be sold and a farewell party to be held, the three children, away from the guests, shared their memories of the many years they had lived in this house. Needless to say, opinions shared during this time, gave each of the children a different view on the stepmother and the new lady in their father's life and to cut a long story short... the father did not remarry.



In some ways this seems all too simple a story but there are many lessons that can be learnt from it. There is a saying - don't judge a book by its cover – when it comes to people, there are those who say about first impressions count. It could be however, that a person is shy, maybe in a new situation or surroundings and as Christians we should give the person encouragement, make him/her feel welcome and spend time with them. Also we should not listen to others, we should not be like sheep and follow just for the sake of it instead we should make up our own mind regarding various circumstances.

Jesus always teaches us “to love another as I have loved you.” So let us remember to do as Jesus commanded through making time for people even if it is a smile and a good morning/afternoon or a pleasant chat as our conversation maybe the only conversation that person has throughout the day and will make them feel noticed, cared about and appreciated.

**Carolyn**

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

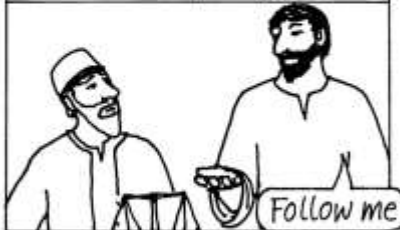
It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 9:9-13, Mk 2:13-15, Lk 5:27-32

The Roman invaders had given the job of collecting their taxes to local Jews who also overcharged, so they were doubly hated.



Matthew had his tax office by Lake Galilee.

Jesus walked past, and said



Follow me

Matthew left everything and went with Jesus.

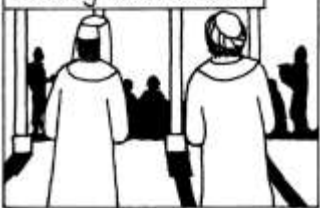


Matthew held a big feast and invited his friends so they could meet Jesus.



They were other tax collectors and bad people

The Pharisees saw Jesus eating with them.



They grumbled to Jesus' disciples.



Why is your teacher eating with all those bad people?

Jesus heard them and said



Who needs a doctor, healthy people or the sick?

Try reading 'keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness.' \*



\*Hosea 6:6

Hosea was talking about people who looked like they were following God's rules but were bad inside.



I have come for the people who need my help.

## All Saints' Day, the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

*He wants not friends that hath thy love,  
And made converse and walk with thee,  
And with thy saints here and above,  
With whom for ever I must be...*

*As for my friends, they are not lost;  
The several vessels of thy fleet,  
Though parted now, by tempests tost,  
Shall safely in thy haven meet....*

*The heavenly hosts, world without end,  
Shall be my company above;  
And thou, my best and surest Friend,  
Who shall divide me from thy love? \*\**

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints – a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

\*\* (Maurice Frost (ed.), *Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern* (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.

# All Souls' Day, a time of reckoning with the past

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day. At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

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## The poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies



began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.



### **December's Magazine 2024**

If you wish to contribute to our magazine, please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 25th November, for inclusion in the December's edition.

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

## Notices from our Churches and Community

### 100 Club Winners!

*October 2024*

3rd	50	Linda Thomas	St. Margaret's Church
10th	60	Caroline Jones	St. Margaret's Church
17th	80	Megan Roach	St. Margaret's Church
24th	83	Peter Phillips	St. Margaret's Church

Shared by a parishioner in Caerphilly who lived to be 103. Wisdom to be found in the words. Simple but profound.

Rev Sue Pratten.

### **A Swarm of B(ees) worth Hiving**

B patient, B prayerful, B humble, B mild,  
 B wise as a Solan, b meek as a child;  
 B studious, B thoughtful, B loving, B kind,  
 B sure you make matters subservient to mind.  
 B cautious, B prudent, B truthful, B true,  
 B courteous to all men, B friendly with few;  
 B temperate is argument, pleasure and wine.  
 B careful of conduct, of money, of time,  
 B cheerful, B grateful, B hopeful, B firm;  
 B peaceful, benevolent, willing to learn,  
 B courageous, B gentle, B liberal, B just,  
 B aspiring, B humble, because you are dust;  
 B penitent, circumspect, sound in faith,  
 B active, devoted, B faithful till death,  
 B honest, B holy, transparent and pure,  
 B dependent, B Christ-like and you'll be secure.

**Author Unknown**

## **With our Christian pilgrimage in mind...**

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away your ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. – *Corrie ten Boom*

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. – *Albert Schweitzer*

Many of us who profess to be Christians are so busy with the mechanics of our religion that we have no time left for the spiritual part of it. – W B Martin

Our character is but the stamp on our souls of the free choices of good and evil we have made through life. – Geikie

## **Repairs to St. Margaret's Windows**



St. Margaret's Church, Gelligaer

As Autumn and Winter approach we are hopefully going to carry out the much needed repairs on St Margaret's Church windows.

Thank you to those who have made a generous donation towards the cost and in anticipation of more donations, we hopefully will be able to cover some of the cost of the work needed.

Finance this year has been difficult and any contributions will be gratefully accepted.

**Jenn East - Treasurer.**



### **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.parihofgelligaer.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’: ‘Valiant-for-Truth’**

“What a composer has to do is to find out the real message he has to convey to the community and say it directly and without equivocation...if the roots of your art are firmly planted in your own soil, and that soil has anything individual to give you, you may still gain the whole world and not lose your own souls.” Those are words of the composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, from a lecture of 1932.

Over 90 years later, we rejoice that the message of his music still speaks to us from those deep roots, which included folksong, poetry and the heritage of Tudor composers, that nourished his own compositions. It is difficult to imagine church life and worship without his glowing hymn tunes of Down Ampney (‘Come down, O Love divine) and Sine Nomine (‘For all the saints’), without his rapturous settings of George Herbert and the mass, and without the Oxford Book of Carols, Songs of Praise and the English Hymnal of which he was the musical editor.

Vaughan Williams was born in 1872, the son of Margaret and Arthur, the vicar of Down Ampney in Gloucestershire. He began collecting folk songs and composing after studying in London. Although he made such an important contribution to Christian music, he remained an agnostic throughout his life, albeit an agnostic of great visionary fervour. Poetry and prose were powerful sources of inspiration, and he set Shakespeare, J M Synge, Edmund Spenser, Walt Whitman, and, for this month’s article, John Bunyan.

Bunyan was imprisoned in Bedford gaol in 1660 for his preaching. Confined to a cell for 12 years, he wrote a powerful allegory on the Christian journey, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*. It prompted several works by Vaughan Williams: a cantata, a large opera, and a short, but intense choral work, *Valiant-for-Truth*. The opera took more than 40 years to complete, and Vaughan Williams used the name *Pilgrim* for the hero, rather than Bunyan’s Christian, for he wanted the work to speak to people of all beliefs. Within that long period of germination, he focussed on one particular pilgrim, Mr *Valiant-for-Truth*, in a motet composed in 1940 on the death of a friend, Dorothy Longman.

The motet is certainly not as well-known and well-loved as one of his more popular works, *The Lark Ascending* of 1914. There the music traces the journey of the bird as its flight weaves ever higher and

higher, dissolving into the shimmering skies above. The motet is a much surer pilgrimage that arrives at the Eternal City. It is a glorious piece of word painting. We hear the hero telling his friends that the final stage of the journey has arrived. He gives away his sword, his courage and his skill, but he keeps the scars of life to witness to his discipleship. As he crosses the river of death, the music moves magically from major to minor. The trumpets begin to sound, quietly and distantly to begin with, but growing louder and louder, as they welcome him to the other side, when the fanfares in Bb major move triumphantly to the final G major.

In this month of All Souls, we remember with thanksgiving all those who like Mr Valiant-for-Truth, have crossed that river to reach the heavenly Jerusalem. We pray for that quality of valour for truth in our own pilgrimage, and we give thanks for the remarkable vision of truth, and its companions, beauty and goodness, that we find in the music of Vaughan Williams.

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## **God in the Sciences**

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

### **Should We Have Faith in Science?**

How do you feel about science after all the grief of the recent pandemic? Are you tired or interested, impressed or cynical – or a bit of everything? The response to COVID-19 over the past few years has demonstrated how ideology or worldview are hugely influential in our interpretation and use of scientific data – and at times in the process of experimentation itself. Should we trial a vaccine in Spain or South Africa? Is this treatment safe enough to administer to the general public? Should vaccination be made compulsory? The data doesn't tell us what to do.

So, when we are encouraged to 'trust the science' in our ongoing response to the pandemic, or in our response to climate change, how can the Church respond? The whole biblical story affirms that God is the only one in whom we can have complete faith. On the other hand, I do put a certain amount of trust in other things. I can have faith in a plane, a body of knowledge, or a person. This trust is within limits because I know that air travel involves hazards, a body of knowledge will contain some mistakes, and every ordinary human is fallible.

I trust science to some extent because it involves careful observation and measurement, collecting different kinds of evidence. Data is interpreted, and competing interpretations are tried out. We summarise our findings in general principles or mathematical equations. Scientists keep each other accountable by looking critically at each other's work. Our knowledge is always provisional. You can't prove anything scientifically because we only deal in evidence, not proof.

On the other hand, there must always be the potential to disprove a theory or it's not science. Our aim is to keep getting nearer to the truth about the way the world is. Overall, I believe this method is reliable and worth supporting, but that only God is completely trustworthy.

Psalm 8 reminds us both of the splendour of God's creation, and that He has placed us in a position of responsibility over it. Scientific knowledge can be part of what helps us to rule well. The process of doing science can be a bit like a blurry image coming into focus. The more we learn, the better we can usually see what's going on, and hopefully the easier it is to decide on a course of action. So, in answer to the question 'Should we have faith in science?' I would say yes, when used wisely and within its proper limits.

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We started our month as usual with a meeting on the first Tuesday. I gave a report sent through to me from the Diocese. It was mainly about the council meeting and the new trustees and positions. It was a long report and there is another one to discuss in our meeting in November. We have been asked if we would like to contribute towards a leaving present for Sue Rivers who is finishing as our Diocesan President. This will also be discussed at our meeting. We used our coffee morning takings to donate to the hospice that looked after Fr. Gary's mother, which was the request at her funeral and this was agreed by our members.

From the 25th November until 10th December there will be a 16 days of activism campaign. We are encouraged to hold our own events to mark this event and there are resources available for us to access. This will also be discussed at our meeting. Unfortunately all the

information I have received has arrived since our last meeting but there is still time to organise anything we need if we wish to proceed. Also the Advent Retreat is advertised for 29th November until 2nd December at Llangasty. Also the Advent Praise at Eglwys Dewi Sant in Cardiff on 5th December at 2.00 p.m. There is too much information in the leaflet that I have downloaded so will read it out and we can decide what is relevant to us. There will be a Deanery meeting at the end of November so I will probably have more information next month of what is happening in our Deanery.

I have booked the Rolling Jacks (the Indoor Bowling Centre) for our Christmas lunch on 10th December with a Garth Brookes tribute (country and western). The price is £30 and if anyone else would like to go I must have the names as soon as possible as I already have more than I have booked knowing that they will allow one or two more. I would also like the 50% deposit. It should be a good event. I was unable to book the Bryn Meadows as it was full. As this is the second Tuesday in the month we will forego our coffee morning and rearrange it on a date to be agreed. Perhaps another morning or swap our meeting.

I visited Olive a few weeks ago and she sends her regards to everyone. We continue to pray for her and Marion and Dorothea who are both in a nursing home, but doing well. I will visit them before Christmas.

God bless to everyone

**Kath**

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### **What bishops do**

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former priests and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, "Does anyone know what the bishop does?"

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: "He's the one you can move diagonally."

## Sunday of Christ the King

The last Sunday in November is the last Sunday of the church year, and in some ways the most important. Why? Because everything else in the Christian year looks BACK on what happened 2000 years ago. The Sunday of Christ the King looks FORWARD to what we can expect next.... the return one day of Jesus Christ to this earth, as King of Kings.

Does the idea of Jesus of Nazareth literally returning to earth seem a bit quaint to accept, in our computerised world of e-mails and the internet? Well, that is what the Bible says will happen – *it is promised more than 250 times!*

The Bible is quite clear: the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings will take place personally, powerfully, bodily, visibly, publicly – and INSTANTLY. (Read Matthew 24:30,31, or I Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:3.) Here are words of Jesus Himself:

*For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Luke 17:24)*

This will be no local story for a BBC TV reporter to cover if he gets time. That day he won't be interviewing the Carpenter of Nazareth, wearing Galilean homespun. Jesus will be in His incandescent brilliance as the 'Son of Man' – a bit of a challenge even for TV reporters! Certainly when Peter, James and John were witness to their familiar Master 'transfigured', as the same irradiated Person – in a dramatic preview of Christ's triumphant final rule (Luke 9:28-36), they did not feel very confident.

The martyred Stephen, about to die, had a similar glimpse: "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56). The exiled apostle John on the island of Patmos saw the same figure: '...His face was like the sun shining in full strength' (Revelation 1:16.)

When Christ one day returns, the whole world will finally witness this same spectacle (Revelation 1:7). His return will mark the end of history, as we know it. It will inaugurate the final Judgment. It will re-unite the Lord with His Church on earth.

Jesus' return to us will bring about the new heaven and the new earth. Pain, death, persecution, privation and sorrow will all be banished. The entire edifice of evil that has raised itself against the rule of God will be dismantled in a moment.

We have been warned all along not to place a date or a time upon the Second Coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42-44) Sadly, many people ignore this warning and waste endless time in calculations. The way in which we should be spending our days before the end is to work,



watch and witness to our Lord Jesus – whether or not ours is a world of computers, e-mail and all the rest!

In the meantime, where is Jesus now? The Bible writers tells us that Jesus has returned to the place of privilege and power, and is ‘seated at the right hand’ of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3), and is waiting for the Father’s timing for Him to return to earth in glory (Mark 13:26-27,32), to raise the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and give them their resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

Jesus will never be a baby again. He is now Christ the King – today, tomorrow, forever.

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### **Church in Wales to invest nearly £10m in new schemes**

The Church in Wales has announced investment totalling nearly £10m in four major projects designed to promote growth in church attendance across the nation. Projects in north east Wales, in Swansea and in Monmouth will be given multi-million-pound grants to develop new initiatives, centres and church communities.

The grants are being made from the Church Growth Fund, in which the Church is investing £100m to support projects in a once-in-a-generation opportunity to resource confident and consistent evangelism throughout Wales. The Church Growth Fund is a development of the Church in Wales’s recent Evangelism Fund programme, which has been successful in helping create fast-growing congregations in several parts of Wales.

One of the four new projects is for six new ‘Mission Hub Churches’ in the diocese of St Asaph, which has already successfully established four such Hub projects since 2021 in Welshpool, Mold, Penrhyn Bay and Holywell. The second project, also in St Asaph diocese, is a scheme to create a team of Pioneer Missioners in rural areas to support mission in church congregations.

For the third project, totalling £2.8m over five years, St Mary’s Church in Swansea city centre will become the first minster church in Wales next year. For the fourth project, the Diocese of Monmouth has secured funding of more than £1m to help grow new worshipping communities by building stronger relationships with schools.

The project will provide a Schools Engagement Pioneer (SEP) for four carefully selected locations - North Monmouthshire, East Cardiff, Islwyn, and Abergavenny. The Archbishop of Wales, the Most Revd Andrew John, said: “The Church Growth Fund represents a transformative step forward in our mission to reach communities across Wales with the love and hope of the Gospel.”

# What's the Big Idea? – An Introduction to the gospel of Luke.

Luke is the third of the synoptic gospels. The gospel and Acts were both written for Theophilus, a Roman official, who acted as Luke's patron to ensure that his gospel was copied and distributed. It was intended for a wider audience, to help both Gentile believers and unbelievers understand who Jesus is and that the gospel is intended for the whole world.

Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry can be divided into 4 main sections: the coming and early life of Jesus (1:1-4:13); Jesus' ministry in and around Galilee (4:14-9:50); His ministry (mainly teaching) on the road to Jerusalem (9:51-24:53) and His final week in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53).

For Luke, the key focus is how God's plan of salvation for the world is fulfilled in Jesus. Therefore, he writes an orderly account ranging from the birth of Jesus to His ascension. He is a strong champion of the outsider. As an outsider himself (a Gentile writer in the NT) he shows how Jesus includes those who are typically seen as outsiders by the religious establishment of His day. This includes women, the poor and sinners (incl. tax collectors, prostitutes and shepherds!), as well as showing how Gentiles, Samaritans and Jews are all included in God's plan of salvation. Luke also emphasises the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry and the role of the Holy Spirit.

A key verse which reflects this perspective is found when Jesus encounters the tax collector Zacchaeus, 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost' (19:10). Whenever we find ourselves on the outside of God's life and love, as Zacchaeus, Jesus comes to find us and welcome us afresh into His kingdom.

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## Short quiz on Luke's Gospel. (Ans page 23)

1 What was the name of the angel who visited Zechariah?

*Michael, Seraphiel, or Gabriel*

2 Who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ?

*Simeon, Herod, or Peter*

3 Who did Christ raise in the town of Nain?

*Peter's mother-in-law, Jairus' daughter, or Widow's son*

4 With which parable did Jesus respond when asked by the lawyer "who is my neighbour"?

*Sower, Good Samaritan, or Workers in the Vineyard*

5 How many loaves did Christ mention when he spoke about a hungry friend arriving at midnight?

*One, two, or three*

6 'Eat, drink and be merry' is a reference from which parable?

*Rich fool, Prodigal Son, Great Banquet*

7 Who was Jesus referring to when He said 'go and tell that fox'?

*Herod, Annas, or Pilate*

8 What does Jesus say is of no use if it has lost its taste?

*Leaven, wine, or salt*

9 In the parable of the lost sheep how does the shepherd bring the found sheep home?

*Follows it home, on his shoulders, or in a cart*

10 How many silver coins did the woman have in the parable of the lost coin?

*Five, ten or twelve*

11 What did the Prodigal son ask for in advance?

*His dowry, his wages, or his inheritance*

12 In the parable why was the unjust steward dismissed from his job?

*Absent from work, wasting goods, or attacked a servant*

13 In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the poor man was carried to whose side?

*Isaac's, Abraham's, or Jacob's*

14 When Jesus met the ten lepers who did He tell them to go and show themselves to?

*No-one, families, or priests*

15 In the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector how often did the Pharisee fast?

*Every day, twice a week, or once a month*

16 In which city did Jesus meet Zacchaeus?

*Samaria, Jerusalem, or Jericho*

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## Glyn-Gaer Primary School

*The children of Glyn-Gaer Primary School have been busy reading and writing poetry this month. The school's "post a poem" initiative has seen the whole school engaging in poetry with their poetry post box filled to the brim with their favourite poems and own original poetry. Harvest, Black History Month and their school grounds have inspired their writing.*

### People

People need people  
To play with  
To cry on  
To sigh on  
To rely on  
To make friends with  
To have fun with  
To bake with  
To pray with  
To be kind to  
To be loved  
To be important to  
So when you're feeling sad or  
lonely Just remember  
People will always need people.

By Ashleigh Y5

*Inspired by the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah, Year 4 and 5 children reflected on the importance of relationships.*

**More poetry from Glyn-Gaer School will appear in December Magazine**

### I am a custodian

I am custodian  
Custodian of our forest school  
Its mysteries and memories.  
Custodian of fallen damp leaves  
The last signs of summer  
Orangey, red leaves clinging on  
trees.  
Custodian of voices: the calling of  
crows  
Birds spreading rumours, magpies  
chatting  
Squirrels laughing and playing in  
golden trees  
Custodian of nature's guards: the  
brambles, nettles and holly.  
Of strong ivy suffocating birch trees  
Of towering oaks and tiny acorns  
falling on mud.  
Custodian of the creatures  
Of hide and seek hedgehogs  
And the scampering of squirrels  
storing their nuts  
Woodpeckers tapping on trees.  
Custodian of the forest skies  
Of swaying towering trees  
Of moody clouds edged with shining  
light.  
I am a custodian  
I don't want to own the forest, it's  
not mine,  
I want to simply protect it, to guard  
it.  
It's always on my mind  
For future generations to enjoy.

*Inspired by the poetry of Brian Moses, Year 5 took a walk through the school's nature reserve noting down observations of their surroundings to include in their poem about being a Custodian.*

# 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.*

## *Date. Services and Holy Days - 2024*

<i>3rd Nov</i>	THE FIRST SUNDAY <i>of</i> THE KINGDOM
<i>10th Nov</i>	THE SECOND SUNDAY <i>of</i> THE KINGDOM
<i>17th Nov</i>	THE THIRD SUNDAY <i>of</i> THE KINGDOM
<i>24th Nov</i>	CHRIST THE KING - THE FOURTH SUNDAY <i>of</i> THE KINGDOM

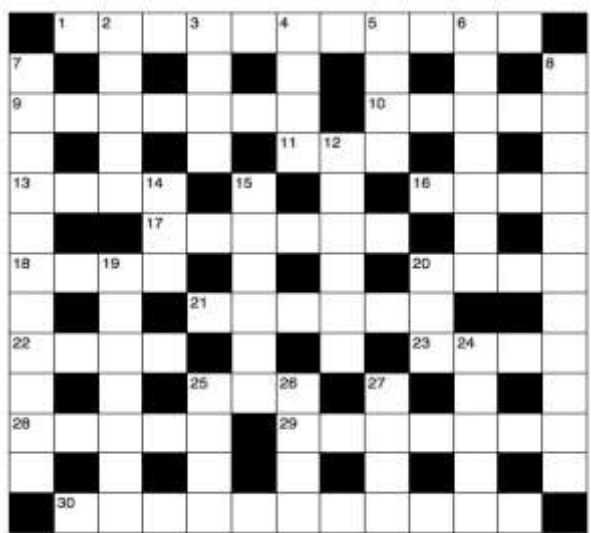
## October's Sudoku Challenge

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

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*Solution can be found on page 39*

# October's Crossword



# Challenge

## Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1-2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

## Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across

## Crossword solution - Page 39

### Quiz on Mark's Gospel.

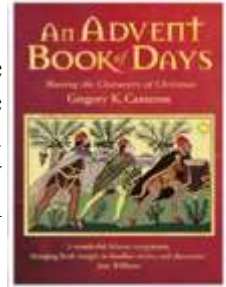
#### Answers:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Q 1</b> Gabriel (Luke 1:18-19)         | <b>Q 9</b> On his shoulders (Luke 15:5)     |
| <b>Q 2</b> Simeon (Luke 2:25-26)          | <b>Q 10</b> Ten (Luke 15:8)                 |
| <b>Q 3</b> Widow's son (Luke 7:11-17)     | <b>Q 11</b> His inheritance (Luke 15:11-13) |
| <b>Q 4</b> Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37) | <b>Q 12</b> Wasting goods (Luke 16:1)       |
| <b>Q 5</b> Three (Luke 11:5-6)            | <b>Q 13</b> Abraham's (Luke 16:19-22)       |
| <b>Q 6</b> Rich fool (Luke 12:13-21)      | <b>Q 14</b> Priests (Luke 17:11-14)         |
| <b>Q 7</b> Herod (Luke 13:31-32)          | <b>Q 15</b> Twice a week (Luke 18:9-14)     |
| <b>Q 8</b> Salt (Luke 14:34-35)           | <b>Q 16</b> Jericho (Luke 19:1-2)           |

### **An Advent Book of Days - meeting the characters of Christmas**

**By Gregory Cameron, Canterbury Press, £9.99**

An Advent Book of Days tells the stories of all the characters and creatures that make up the Christmas story, with daily prayers and reflections based on their experiences. Fully illustrated in colour, this rich seasonal companion combines the Bible, history, art and legend to explore the story of the incarnation.



For each day of Advent, we meet a character caught up in the drama of the nativity, from the archangel Gabriel to the ox and ass in the stable.

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### **Celebrating Christmas - Embracing joy through art and reflection**

**by Amy Boucher-Pye, BRF, £9.99**

In this stunning hardback gift book, father and daughter Leo and Amy offer images and words to bring you joy at Christmas: a profound, enduring joy even in the midst of pain, loss, betrayal and disappointment.



Full of vivid memories and family anecdotes, ranging from the glittering lights of Oxford Street to the snowy woods of Minnesota, *Celebrating Christmas* explores the joys and sorrows of Christmas in a broken world, which is, as the author says, ‘exactly why Jesus came to earth!’



# 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

October 2024		November 2024		December 2024	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Davies	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Joan Jenkins	1st	Christine Harvey
13 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Thomas	10 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Davies	8th	Joan Jenkins
20 <sup>th</sup>	Cheryl Pugh	17 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Thomas	15th	Pat Davies
27 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Harvey	24 <sup>th</sup>	Cheryl Pugh	22nd	Paul Thomas
				29th	Cheryl Pugh

## St. Margaret's Church - Readers Rota

October 2024		November 2024		December 2024	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Kath Llewellyn	3 <sup>rd</sup>	June Phillips	1st	Kath Llewellyn
13 <sup>th</sup>	Lynne Thomas	10 <sup>th</sup>	Jennette Jones	8th	Enid Mayne
20 <sup>th</sup>	Neil Hazell	17 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Ball	15th	Huw Thomas
27 <sup>th</sup>	Alex Ball	24 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Thorpe	22nd	Jenn East
				29th	Jennette Jones

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

## St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

October 2024			November 2024			December 2024		
6	Lynda Trollope	Enid	3	Lynda Trollope	Enid	1	Lynda Trollope	Enid
13	Jennette	Audrey	10	Jennette	Audrey	8	Jennette	Audrey
20	Kath	June	17	Kath	June	15	Kath	June
27	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	24	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	22	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
						29	Lynda Trollope	Enid

# From the Register

## Christian Funerals

**October 2024**

7 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Carolyn Davey RIP
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Margaret Jenkins RIP
31 <sup>st</sup>	Mr Maurice 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**

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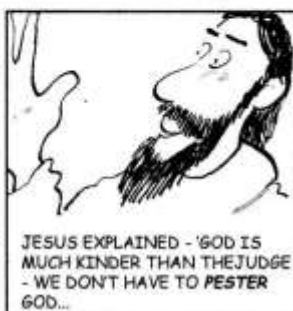
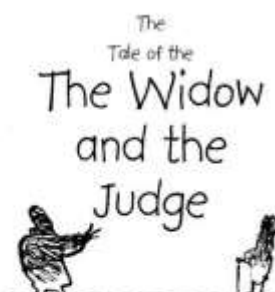
## **Prayers for the Bereaved**

*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



**READ**  
the story in  
**John 13:1-17**

*"Do you understand what I have done for you?  
Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed  
your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.  
I have set you an example, that you should  
do as I have done for you."*

### "DO AS I HAVE DONE FOR YOU."

The disciples had met with Jesus in an upper room to share a meal together, but there were no servants to wash their dusty feet. Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer clothing, wrapped a towel around his waist and began to wash the disciples' feet just like a servant would do.

Then Jesus said:



By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus showed that as God's people we are never too important to serve and care for others.

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

JESUS  
DISCIPLES  
PASSOVER  
FEAST • SUPPER • MEAL

PETER  
SCRIPTURES  
LORD • TEACHER  
SERVANT • MASTER

GARMENTS • CLOTHING • TOWEL • WAIST • WATER • BASIN • WASH • FEET • WIPE  
CLEAN • UNDERSTAND • OTHERS • EXAMPLE • DO • LOVED • CHOSEN • BLESSED

## Complete the Word search !



Matthew

sick

invaders

doctor

people

Pharisees

kindness

collectors

feast

healthy

friends

Galilee

eating

reading

grumbled

disciples

rules

Hosea

office

help

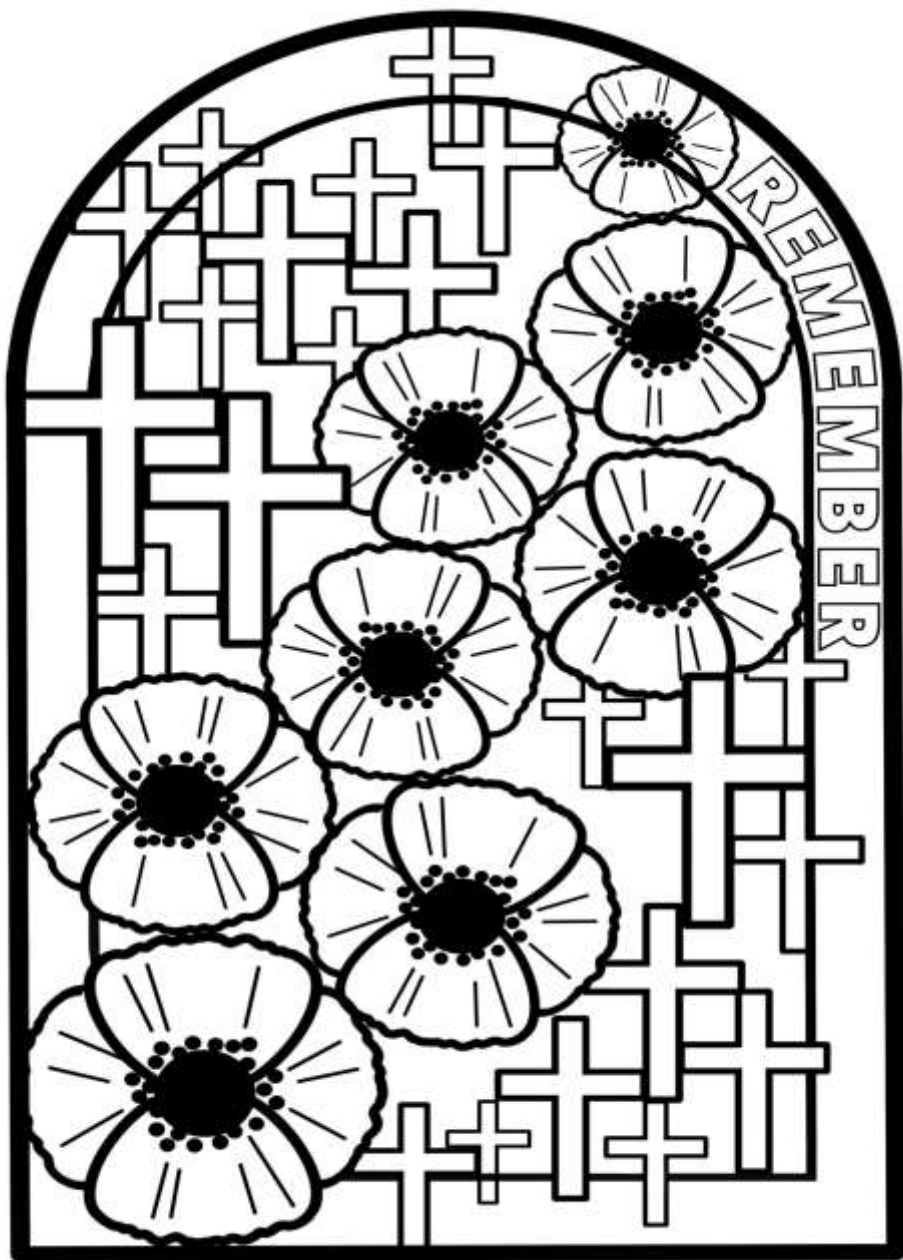
teacher

Jesus

Roman

tax

Colour in!



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Tuesday	09:00 - 18:00
Wednesday	09:00 - 18:00
Thursday	09:00 - 18:00
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Saturday	09:00 - 18:00
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magazine editor on  
07983 754610

or

[chriscorbin1961@gmail.com](mailto:chriscorbin1961@gmail.com)



# Neuadd St. Catwg Community Hall

*Church Road, Gelligaer. CF82 8FW*

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St. Catwg's Church.

*It is ideal for:*

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

*facilities available include:*

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*for*

## **Booking and Enquiries**

*Please Contact:*

**Christine Harvey: 01443 833123**



**Christine Harvey 01443 833123 /**

## Service Times

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

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

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

### SUNDAY

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

*1st Sunday of each Month - Family Services*

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

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

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

#### General Disclaimer

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

# Directory of Contacts

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

*Thank You!*

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

**Mothers' Union:**

Branch Leader ..... Kath Llewellyn.    Tel: 01443 829658

Branch Secretary .....

Branch Treasurer ..... June Phillips.    Tel: 01443 835977

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

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

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

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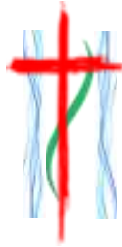
### Solutions to this month's puzzles.

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

Answer to **Sudoku** on page 18

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

Answers to **Crossword** on page 22



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH  
TÂF RHYMNI  
TAFF RHYMNEY  
MINISTRY AREA



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM 



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