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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.*

MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

29th September

What's in this edition!

Reader Writes.

District News/Messages.

Mothers' Union.

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



**For he shall
give his
angels charge
over thee,
to keep
thee in
all thy ways.**



Psalms 91:11

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Greetings from the Rectory

Fr Gary's next greetings from the Rectory will appear in October's magazine.



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Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them – the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted

that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are ‘sealed’ or ‘marked’ on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: “Draw an I.” That is you standing before the Lord, saying, ‘here I am’. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: “Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service.”

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus’ wonderful promise: “And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.” (John 12:32)

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Holy Cross Day
14th September

Reader Writes.

Hi all,

All too soon the school holidays have drawn to a close and the hustle and bustle of the mornings has arrived, from trying to get the children out of bed to getting them to school. For some children, this will be their first year at school and for others the first term of their last school year. Whichever 'first' this is for the children and young people, it marks the beginning of a new chapter on their journey of life – for those starting nursery it will be making new friends and for those in their last year it will entail working towards a future post school/college/university. On this journey of life there will always be twists and turns and maybe a few wrong turns and bumps along the way but no journey is ever straight forward.



Irrespective of age, we are all on this journey, each of us at various stages of our lives. Physical journeys by car, train, bus or walking can have their moments – thinking we know where we are going and then we see a diversion sign and are taken by surprise especially if the sat nav gets confused!!! On these journeys we take both the right roads, take wrong turns or even getting lost. The journey of life is no different – whilst it may not be physical we still take right and wrong roads, arrive at a crossroads wondering which road to take and may even lose our way.

As we travel on this journey, we have the companionship of a good and wonderful friend. We may not see this friend but we have faith in Jesus and know he is at our side through each and every day, the good times and the not so good helping us to either stay on the right road or find our way back on to the right path.

One of my mother's favourite more modern hymns was 'Walk with me O my Lord.' The chorus of the hymn asks Jesus to walk with us through the good and the not so good times and hold our hand as we go on our way and each verse explains whatever our problem, Jesus will never fail to pick us up and guide us in the right direction.

How wonderful it is to have Jesus as our friend and guide.

Carolyn

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-15

Jesus told a story to describe God's kingdom.
A vineyard owner went to the marketplace
at dawn to hire workers to pick his grapes.

I'll pay you the normal
wage for a day's work.



He went out again
at 9 o'clock ...



and mid-day ...

and 3 o'clock ...

and again with just 1 hour
to go before sunset.



I'll pay you a fair wage

At the end of the day...



Pay the last workers first.

They were given a
whole day's wage...



and so were those who
had worked all day.



You paid them the same
and we worked all day!



My friend, you agreed to
work for a day's wage

I want to give those
who were hired last
the same as you got.



Can't I do what I want
with my own money?

Or are you jealous because
I'm good to others?



Jesus concluded...



So those
who are
now last will be
first, and the first last.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



In both eastern and western Churches, Mary has always been held as pre-eminent among all the saints. The unique, extraordinary privilege of being the mother of the One who was both God and Man, makes her worthy of special honour. Thomas Aquinas believed she was due *hyperdulia*, or a veneration that exceeds that of other saints, but is at the same time infinitely below the adoration, or *latria*, due to God alone.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke give Mary most mention. Luke even tells the story of Jesus' infancy from Mary's point of view. Her Song, or *Magnificat* appears in Luke 1:46-55.

The virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated in the gospels. But after Jesus' birth, Mary fades quietly into the background. During Jesus' public life, she is mentioned only occasionally, as at the wedding at Cana. She reappears at the foot of the Cross (John's Gospel), and is given into John's care. In the early chapters of Acts, Mary is with the Apostles, and received the Holy Spirit along with them on Whitsunday. But her role was not the active one of teaching and preaching.

Mary's significance grew with the centuries. By the fifth century she was called *Theotokos*, The Mother of God, and from the seventh century onwards, she was given four festivals: the Presentation in the Temple (2nd February), the Annunciation (25th March), the Assumption (15th August) and her Nativity (8th September).

Marian devotion has played an enormous role in the church down the years. Mary has been the object of countless prayers, accredited with performing many miracles, and the subject of thousands of artistic endeavours. She has had hundreds of chapels or parish churches named after her. During the Reformation many images of Mary were destroyed. The Second Vatican Council 1962 made an extended statement on her, stressing her complete dependence on her Son, and regarding her as a model of the Church.

Principal Marian shrines of today include Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), Walsingham (England), Loreto (Italy), Czesochowa (Poland) and Guadalupe (Mexico).

Enter all the angels, led by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.



The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel – Gabriel – appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later – also in a dream – warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there – He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that anyone, in any situation, who is at that

moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

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What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

This month we turn to the New Testament and look at Matthew, the first of the gospels. Although linked to Matthew the apostle, it is generally believed that the author used oral tradition, written fragments, eye-witness accounts, as well as common material in the other synoptic gospels (Mark and Luke).



Matthew, in writing for Jews, sets out to prove that Jesus is the true Messiah. He connects Jesus' birth, life death and resurrection with the Old Testament Scriptures. In fact, he quotes the Old Testament more than any other New Testament author. This is reflected in the opening genealogy which traces Jesus back to Abraham; in his use of the terms kingdom of heaven and Father in heaven, reflecting a Jewish reluctance to use God's name; and in the way he portrays Jesus as the Son of David.

The whole gospel is structured around five blocks of teaching (chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25). This fivefold division reflects the structure of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament).

Matthew provides a comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all parts of our lives (work, family, friends and future) completed in Him. At the end of his gospel, Matthew records Jesus' commission to His disciples share this good news, promising to be with them:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' (28:18-20)

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Notices from our Churches and Community

100 Club Winners!

August 2024

4th	18	Ken Roach	St. Margaret's
11th	99	Melanie Adams	St. Margaret's
18th	74	Gwennan Bartlett	St. Margaret's
25th	73	June Phillips	St. Margaret's

Appropriate Clothing

I went to church the other day
 just to hear what they had to say.
 I was told I should have dressed,
 should have worn my Sunday Best.
 I didn't mean to appear crude,
 Or, God forbid, to seem that rude.
 The clothes God notes are not outside,
 they cover my soul all inside.
 They are not cottons, silks or tweeds,
 they are my thoughts, my words, my deeds.



Samaritan Purse Shoebox Appeal 2024

Shoeboxes are now available for this year's Samaritan Purse Shoebox Appeal. If anyone is interested and would like to fill a box or would like more information, please speak to Joan Jenkins in St Catwg's church or Jeanette in St. Margaret's church. Could any boxes be returned by Sunday 10th November.

MURDER MYSTERY

The social committee's MURDER MYSTERY evening has been postponed to a future time. Details of the evening will be given in a future notice.

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Repairs to St. Margaret's Windows



St. Margaret's Church, Giffnock

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.

Neuadd St. Catwg Community Hall, Gelligaer

presents



Award-winning Elvis impersonator Ian Pollock (Best Sideburns Glosvegas 2005) stars in his version of the classic Elvis film "Blue Hawaii". A musical comedy which will leave you all shook up ... expect the usual mayhem and lots of audience interaction, plus all your favourite Elvis songs.

Date of show: Friday, 18th October at Neuadd St Catwg, Gelligaer

Tickets: £5 and £4 for concessions (over 65) If anyone would like tickets, please contact Carolyn Corbin on 07983 677360 or carolyncorbin63@aol.com

October's Magazine 2024

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 23rd September, for inclusion in the October'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.

God in Music

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: Fauré’s Requiem

At the end of his life in 1924, Gabriel Fauré, the French composer, said to his sons, “When I am no longer here, you will hear it said of my works, ‘After all, that was nothing much to write home about!’ You must not let that hurt or depress you. It is the way of the world.”

His concern was ill-founded, for Fauré’s compositions, vocal, choral and instrumental, have become standard works in concert programmes, and are much loved by all who value the beauty and joy of music.

Curiously, the one work of Fauré’s that is most frequently performed, his Requiem, had a lukewarm reception at its first performance. That was in 1888 at the funeral of an important Parisian architect in the church of the Madeleine. Afterwards the priests there told Fauré that the church’s own musical repertoire did not require this new addition, and so for over 20 years the Requiem was virtually ignored.

Now it is one of the most loved and sublime settings of the Requiem. Is it because of the graceful, fleeting lines of melodies that Debussy compared to the gesture of a beautiful woman? Or is it because of the resigned, yet optimistic approach to death and eternal life that is at the heart of Fauré’s setting. He wrote, “It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death, and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above...”

Written on the death of his parents, the Requiem in many ways marks the end of Fauré’s youth. It was a youth that could be said to have begun with another beautiful choral work, the *Cantique de Jean Racine*. This was composed in 1865 when Fauré was just 20 years old, and finishing his studies at the *École Niedermeyer*.

Yet however youthful, it has all the hallmarks of the great composer: a serenity and a delicacy in setting the words, and a clarity of line and beauty of proportion that makes the work sing out its prayer. It addresses Jesus the Word and asks that He will watch over us and send us His grace. If we have been forgetful, then stir our hearts again.

Receive this song, it prays, which is your gift to us returned in full measure.

The Cantique points to God as the author of all beauty. The music we compose is His inspiration and gift in our lives, which we offer to the world and to Him. In the novel *God's Apology* by Olivia Fane, the ten-year old girl, Joanna, talks of music as God's gift in this way. "I have come," she says, "because the lines of communication between our two worlds has been frayed. Music is the language of God. We can not only hear it, we can also sing it. So, sing now: sing in joy and in pain, sing to God." As we listen to Fauré's Requiem or Cantique, we can rejoice in that gift of music, and find it opening up God's world of beauty and harmony for us to hear and enjoy.

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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.

Faithful to Scripture, Faithful to Science: Alister McGrath on science and Christian faith

Alister McGrath is well-known as a theologian, but he started out as a scientist. After becoming a Christian as a student, he wanted to learn about his new faith, so he studied theology at the same time as completing his PhD in molecular biophysics. He has not lost touch with science, but has continued to write and speak about how science and Christian faith work together. In this extract from a recently released interview, he shares his experience of being a scientist and a Christian.

"I think my most vivid experience of wonder took place in the 1970s when I was on vacation in Iran. We were travelling on a bus in the middle of the night because it wasn't hot then, and the bus broke down. We found ourselves in the middle of this solemn black desert, and the night sky shone with a brilliance like I had never seen before. That just overwhelmed me, it made me think there is something really wonderful here.

"Now, I was a Christian by that time and I knew how Christianity could answer that but it just struck me, that sense of wonder has two possible outcomes. One is science - this universe is wonderful, what's it

all about? But of course, it is also about religion, the deeper levels of things that science can't really engage. I think one of the things I have discovered over time is that maybe this sense of wonder both opens the gateway to science and to faith, and that those two together are able to answer questions which on their own they simply couldn't.

"I think science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer - they transcend its capacities to answer, and you might think of non-empirical questions like, 'Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? What is good and how do I live a good life?'

"These are real questions and they're good questions but they're not scientific questions. And the psychologists tell us that we really need answers to those questions if we are to lead a fulfilled human existence. You find some scientists who say, 'Well because science can't answer them there are no answers to be given', but actually most realise that there are answers waiting to be discovered - it's just that science can't deliver them.

"Science fills in part of a big picture but there are parts of the picture you have to fill in from somewhere else. Science is part of the answer but only part, and faith supplements it, giving us a vision of life that is exciting and reliable, and also something that we can inhabit meaningfully."

Find more on wondersofthelivingworld.org

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Bible sense

Being married to a woman who reads her Bible can have its drawbacks. When a man protested to his wife that wiping dishes was not a man's job, his wife replied simply: "2 Kings 21:13", and handed him a tea towel. Later he looked it up: 'And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.'



Mothers' Union



As we start a new school year and holidays are over we will continue with our regular events. We didn't stop during July and August and surprisingly all our meetings, coffee mornings and quiz afternoons were still well attended even though several members were on holiday during these months. WE haven't had any information from the Deanery except for the Rise Up campaign which had a zoom meeting on 28th August, but I didn't attend it (I will admit I am not a fan of zoom meetings and we weren't part of the campaign).

Fr. Gary did a wonderful funeral service for Glynis and I was pleased to see so many people there, especially Mothers' Union members from Pontlottyn. Glynis had been a faithful member there for many years and it was good that so many of her friends from there came to pay their respects. A few of them told me how sorry they are that they don't have a Mothers' Union branch any more and would love to join ours but it's the transport there and back. We hope that our branch continues to survive and hopefully thrive. We all enjoy the company in all our events and long may this continue. I am grateful to all our members for their support and also to Fr. Gary. At the time of writing this Fr. Gary's mother is seriously ill and all our prayers are for his family and of course with him.

I called to see Marion and Olive during August. It was Marion's 93rd birthday and she was very happy in Ty Clyd and grateful for my visit. Fr. Gary arrived almost the same time as I did so it was good for her to see us both. Olive was still quite ill and doesn't get out of bed but has carers four times a day and always wants to know what is going on in church. Please pray for her as she struggles with her health and loneliness.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings and if anyone has any suggestions for a speaker or would like to speak themselves about their lives or experiences I would be grateful. Thanks.

God bless

Kath

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Walking is a great way to exercise



You may be young or old, working endless hours, or retired. But there is one exercise you can still undertake almost anywhere, for however long or short a time: walking.

According to health specialists, the simple act of walking “ticks so many boxes – improving our brain, mental and musculoskeletal fitness, as well as our physical fitness.”

Here are five reasons why:

Walking raises your heart rate and makes you breathe faster.

It gives you the benefit of a moderate aerobic workout – without the stress on your joints. As for your blood sugar levels, consider this: after a meal your blood sugar level rises and your pancreas releases insulin to bring it down. But even a five-minute walk can help by blunting the spike in blood sugar. Try and keep your pace brisk – aim for 100 to 130 steps a minute.

Walking improves your bone density

Walking briskly engages the muscles along the back side of your body – the glutes, hamstrings and calves. They in turn put a bit of pull on your bones, which stimulates your bones to produce osteoblasts, which improves your bone density and reduces your risk of osteoporosis.

Walking improves your mood

It stimulates your parasympathetic nervous system (nerves that relax the body during stress) and stimulates your amygdala (that part of you which controls your emotions). And if you can walk near water (rivers, coast, in the rain) you get exposed to negative ions in the air. These electrically charged molecules are excellent for your mental health.

Walking helps your brain

You will sleep better, and your brain will be in better shape for

memory and cognition. Walking also stimulates creative thinking – studies have found walking is a great time for problem-solving.

Walking helps your body shape

An instant way to look younger is to stand tall. So walk with your head up, shoulders back, and lengthen your back, to stand up straighter. And with firmer muscles, your overall body shape will improve, which in turn will boost your confidence!

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Back to school

This month more than 10.7 million children will be going back to school. That means that millions of households across the country are now preparing for the big day.

Regular bedtime routines are back, packed lunches are planned, uniforms are washed and ready to go.



Some parents find it helpful to take children to the park for a good walk, or to go for rides on bikes or scooters in the final days of summer. The exercise will relieve stress, and help the children settle better at night.

For younger, perhaps anxious children, hugs are also very important. For all children, it is good to get them into the habit of feeling gratitude towards God for the positive things that happen in their daily lives, and for all the things that they already have.

While it is normal to feel a bit anxious before going back to school, there are things that parents can do to help. Praying with their children and reading a bit of a child’s story Bible to them each night will encourage their faith and remind them that they don’t have to face the ups and downs of school life all on their own.

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Breaking the land speed record



One hundred years ago, on 25th September 1924, British racing driver Malcolm Campbell broke the land speed record for the first time. He recorded a speed of 146mph in a 1921 Sunbeam Grand Prix car at Pendine Sands, Carmarthen Bay, Wales.

Born in Kent in March 1885, Major Sir Malcolm Campbell MBE was a man with a passion for speed, whether on motorcycles, in cars or on water. He was also a journalist. He gained the world speed record on land and on water at various times, breaking nine land speed records between 1924 and 1935.

He had started racing cars in 1910 and had a near-fatal accident – the first of several – at Brooklands racetrack in 1912. His car was christened *Blue Bird*, after a 1908 drama about the pursuit of happiness, by the Belgian poet and playwright Maurice Maeterlinck. The name stuck and was used for all his subsequent speed record attempt vehicles on land and water. Years later, a slightly altered version of *Bluebird*, was employed by his son Donald, who was killed in 1967 attempting a new record on Coniston Water.

Sir Malcolm himself survived all his accidents and died in 1948 at Reigate after several strokes. He had been knighted by King George V and given a civic welcome in 1931. Early in his life he had worked for Lloyd's of London, initially for no pay, but made money by being the first person to realise that newspapers needed libel insurance.

He married three times. His second wife Dorothy – mother of Donald – described him as “quite unfitted for the role of husband and family man”.



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Not all

Dear Minister: I know that God loves everyone, but He has never met my sister. Love Peter (aged 7).



The coming of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer

Some 75 years ago, on 1st September 1949, the Christmas song Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was released. It was sung by the American movie-star and singer Gene Autry, nicknamed the “Singing Cowboy”.



The song was adapted from a poem/story written by Robert L May for a children’s colouring book: it was an assignment given him by his employers, the Chicago-based Montgomery Ward retail group. It was published in 1939, and 2.4 million copies were distributed free in its first year.

May initially considered the names Rollo or Reginald for his ‘ugly duck’ reindeer, but eventually settled on Rudolph. Concerned about how to make the reindeer distinctive, he was looking out of his office window when a thick fog blocked his view. This gave him the idea for Rudolph’s bright red nose, enabling Santa to see where he was going.

Robert May’s four-year-old daughter was used as a sounding board while he created the story, but it was initially rejected, partly because of the unfortunate associations of a red nose with chronic drunkenness at the time. However, May’s friend and colleague, Denver Gillen, drew ‘cute reindeer’, which persuaded the managers to go for the idea.

The story-poem was turned into a song by May’s brother-in-law, Johnny Marks. Several popular singers rejected it, but Gene Autry took it on, and his recording reached No 1 on the Billboard chart for pop singles in the week of Christmas 1949. It sold 2.5 million copies in the first year. Up to the 1980s it was the second best-selling record of all time.

The United States Postal Service issued a series of postage stamps featuring Rudolph on 6th November 2014.

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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 - September 2024</i>	
<i>1st</i>	THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>3rd</i>	† Gregory the Great
<i>8th</i>	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>11th</i>	† Deiniol
<i>15th</i>	THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>16th</i>	† Ninian
<i>25th</i>	† Cadoc
<i>22nd</i>	THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>29th</i>	MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

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BRINGING FAITH TO YOUR INBOX

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

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



District of Gelligaer Website

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

Miscellaneous observations on our Christian pilgrimage

To become a disciple means a decisive and irrevocable turning to both God and neighbour. What follows from there is a journey which never ends in this life, a journey of continually discovering new dimensions of loving God and neighbour. – **David J Bosch**

If we complained less, and praised more, we should be happier, and God would be more glorified. Let us daily praise God for common mercies. – **Charles Spurgeon**

Miscellaneous observations on life

A wise man will desire no more than he may get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully and leave contentedly. – **Anon**

To live without listening is not to live at all; it is simply to drift in my own backwater. – **Joan Chittister**

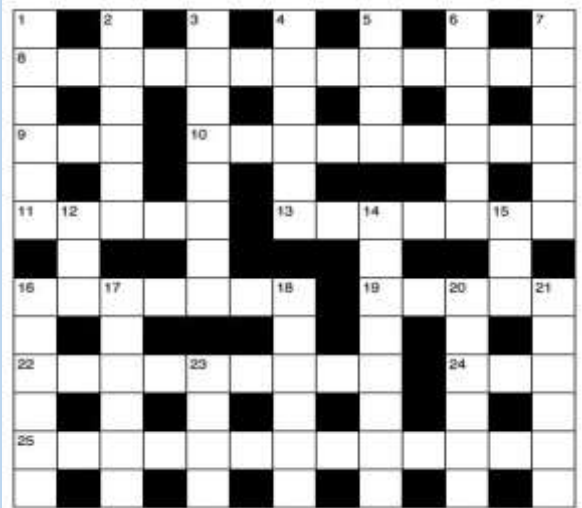
The joy that isn't shared, I've heard, dies young. – **Anne Sexton**

Sudoku Challenge

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

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Solution can be found on page 39



Across

- 8 Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14: 14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 ‘Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ’ (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 ‘Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger’ (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across

- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

Crossword solution - Page 39

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

Unseen

A small girl greeting her father on his return from a journey by air and learning that he had flown above the clouds, asked if he had seen God. "Well, no," said her father, "you can't see God like that because He doesn't have a body."

"Oh," she said, with pity and disappointment, "only head and legs?"

Book Reviews

Enduring Wisdom –

Words of Hope and Inspiration by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

By Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, SPCK, £10.99



A unique anthology of over 80 inspiring quotations from the late Queen's Christmas speeches, offering an intimate insight into the values she embodied and faithfully promoted throughout her 70-year reign. This treasury of quotations speak of the qualities that were closest to her heart: courage, empathy, forgiveness, hope, humility, love and respect. These are the qualities that she encouraged in others and that she hoped would endure among all people of goodwill, whatever their

religion or race.

Including seven memorable portraits - one from each decade of her reign - this exquisite giftbook offers an inspiring tribute to a world leader whose wise and gracious influence will live in our hearts forever. Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022) was Queen of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries from 6 February 1952 until her death on 8 September 2022. Her reign of over 70 years is the longest of any British monarch and the longest verified reign of any female head of state in history. Elizabeth II was queen regnant of 32 sovereign states during her lifetime and remained the monarch of 15 realms by the time of her death. She was also Patron of more than 600 organisations and charities.

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

This?

By Susan Sayers, Kevin Mayhew, £7.99

Susan Sayers explores how Christians, as loving the Creator, should react to the Earth's warming. The book considers where we as humans stand in the created order of things, and what we can and should be doing to play our part for the good of Planet 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

September 2024		October 2024		November 2024	
1 st	Paul Thomas	6 th	Pat Davies	3 rd	Joan Jenkins
8 th	Cheryl Pugh	13 th	Paul Thomas	10 th	Pat Davies
15 th	Janeve Manca	20 th	Cheryl Pugh	17 th	Paul Thomas
22 nd	Christine Harvey	27 th	Christine Harvey	24 th	Cheryl Pugh
29 th	Joan Jenkins				

St. Margaret's Church - Readers Rota

September 2024		October 2024		November 2024	
7 th	June Phillips	6 th	Kath Llewellyn	3 rd	June Phillips
14 th	Huw Thomas	13 th	Lynne Thomas	10 th	Jennette Jones
21 st	Jenn East	20 th	Neil Hazell	17 th	Chris Ball
28 th	Jennette Jones	27 th	Alex Ball	24 th	Christine Thorpe
29 th	Linda Bartlett				

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

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

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

From the Register

Christian Funerals

July/August 2024

15th July

Elizabeth Roberts RIP

9th

Raymond Stone RIP

19th

Glynis Adams 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 gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY...

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...



...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Mouse Makes

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
 _____ you, O God!
 May all the peoples praise you!
 The land yields its harvest;
 God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
 giving you rain from heaven
 and crops in their seasons.

He provides you with
 plenty of _____. He fills
 your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
 and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

"Let us fear and respect
 the Lord our God.

He gives us autumn and
 spring _____
 at the right time.

He makes sure that we
 have the harvest at
 just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

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

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN

NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE

FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY

BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!

Complete the Word search !

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

story

God

friend

same

marketplace

money

give

grapes

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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

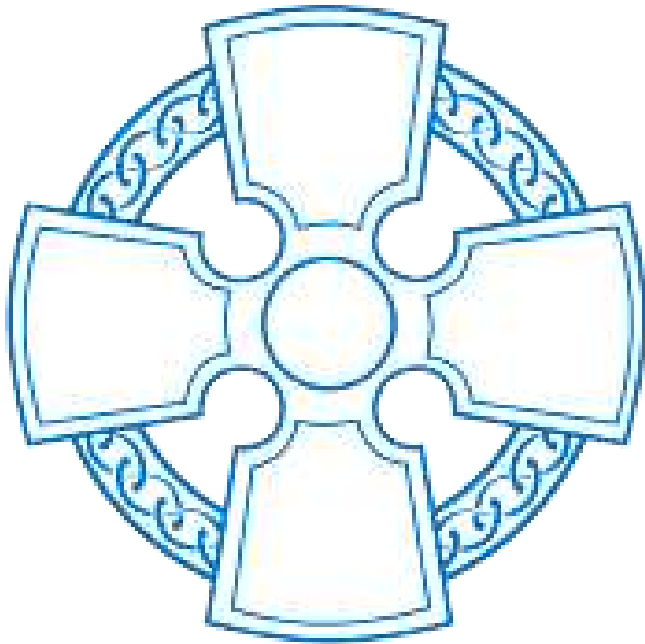
10.00 am. Holy Eucharist at St. Catwg's Church

General Disclaimer

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ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
TÂF RHYMNI
TAFF RHYMNEY
MINISTRY AREA



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