



# Margam

## Ministry Area Magazine



October 2024



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## Happy Harvest!

Autumn is in the air and what about all this rain! Whatever the weather, there's a plentiful harvest of content in this issue with goodies from across the Ministry Area.

Alongside our regular updates, there's an abundance of news, views and goings-on to keep us entertained. The Bible and prayer are two themes that weave their way through the pages and there are articles on clocks, postcodes and poppies, a few things to make you chuckle and a delightful tour of Bath too. We are delighted to recognise some significant wedding anniversaries too – congratulations to everyone who has been celebrating!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed, it is much appreciated and I look forward to your continued support.

Enjoy this month's articles – and remember November and December are always popular, so if you have announcements, news alerts or topical stories, please make sure you get them to me in plenty of time. For November by 20 October and for December, by 20 November. I'd love to have more photos too

Happy reading!

*Helen Murdoch*

*Please send magazine or website contributions to me at:  
helen@helenmurdochmarketing.com or call me on 01656 773645 or 07721 864493.  
or by post to 7 Birch Walk, Porthcawl CF36 5AN*

**COVER IMAGE:** The children's Harvest display at Margam Abbey

**EDITORIAL DEADLINE:** The editorial deadline for every issue of this magazine is close of business on the 20th of the month prior to the date of publication.

### Keep up with Ministry Area news and updates:

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ONCE UPON A

# Christmas

MARGAM ABBEY

Sunday 1st December  
Save the Date!

*Come in and Imagine...*

A carol service  
- but different

**M**  
Margam Calling

Dear Friends,

*Fr. Jonathan*

In preparing for our Harvest celebrations in Kenfig Hill and Margam, I came across the Parable of the Celtic Parable of St Comgan which I felt resonated with the generous nature of the Festival. So for this month's contribution I thought it would be worth sharing in the MA Magazine!

St Comgan was the son of a prince of Leinster, Ireland, and the brother of St. Kentigern. Wounded by neighbouring chieftains in a battle, Comgan fled with his sister and her children to Scotland. He settled in Lochaise, near Skye. There he built a monastery. He was buried on Iona.

St. Comgan heard about a miser who owned a fabulous collection of jewels. The miser kept the jewels in a safe. Comgan called on the miser, and said: "I hear you have a fabulous collection of jewels. Would you allow me to see them?"

The miser replied: "It would be a pleasure. I haven't looked at them myself for many years, so I too shall enjoy seeing them." He opened the safe, took out a gold box and carefully placed the box on a table. He unlocked the box, and lifted the lid. Both Comgan and the miser stared with open mouths at the diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and sapphires which it contained. The miser dipped his hand in the box, and let the precious stones run through his fingers. Then after a few minutes he closed the box, and returned it to the safe.

"Thank you for giving me those jewels," Comgan said.

The miser replied: "I haven't given them to you; they belong to me."

Comgan said: "I have had as much pleasure as you from looking at them. So there is no difference between us - except that you have the expense and anxiety of buying and looking after them."

That day the miser gave away one jewel to every household in the town. There were just enough with one left over for himself.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have and those who will be donating to the varied charities and groups who will benefit from our Harvest Festivals.

*With love and prayers,*

*Fr. Jon*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Fr Wayne*

I can't believe it has been 8 months since I came to be with you all in the Margam Ministry Area. Time has flown by, and I can finally say that I have unpacked all my boxes and the Rectory is now sorted (apart from a few jobs still that the diocese has to finish off and with a few repairs to leaks, smoke alarms and broken toilets). However, I do feel a lot more settled here in Porthcawl than I did when I first moved to be with you.

When I arrived, one of the first questions I asked was about the prayer life tradition of the Churches. Over the years, I've used various liturgies for Morning and Evening Prayer, so I wanted to ensure that I was using the same prayer book as the other clergy in the Ministry Area. Fr Jon informed me that the clergy regularly used a book called 'Celebrating Common Prayer' something I had used before but not for many years.

As I didn't have my own copy, I decided to order one to keep in the car. I was also told that the clergy met to say Morning Prayer every Thursday at the Church in Kenfig Hill. This is something that has continued this year which is great!

A few days after ordering the book, it arrived in the post. It was a second hand version but in very good condition. However, when I opened it, out popped a newspaper article that had been cut out from a Church newspaper - I read it with interest. The article, 'Prayer puts the Church back in business' was written in 1990 by Bishop Michael Marshall, the former Bishop of Woolwich.

The article begins with a quote from John Betjeman who said many years ago in his broadcast talk about the life of All Saints, Margaret Street, London, that there was always someone found in the Church praying, no matter what time of the day it was. But even back in the 90's, they were discussing the fact that Churches were having to be locked because of theft or vandalism, but All Saints in London was one of the very few Churches that was still open. Ironically, All Saints Porthcawl is also always open daily from 8am to 6pm and, although it is unattended, it has security cameras installed for monitoring purposes and it helps that the vicar only lives across the road from

the Church and can keep his eye on the goings on in the Church. You will be surprised how many people pop in to say a prayer or just to sit in a quiet space throughout each day – and many of these people are not regular ‘Church goers’ either. Some even come in to light a candle and say a prayer at the votive candle stand before rushing off to carry on with other commitments. I am sure this happens in Margam Abbey too, or other Churches that are left open for people to use.

As Christians, it is so important to set time aside to pray. When I was School Chaplain, at 8am every morning I used to toll the bell in the School Chapel as a call for Morning Prayer. Some staff and pupils used to join me for the short 10-minute service on a daily basis – not always the same faces, but it was good to have company for the Morning Office. Those who came used to remark that they felt that the prayer service and praying ‘set them up for the rest of the day so that they could face anything’.

When discussing prayer with the children, I often used to remark that I pray throughout the day but sometimes quite randomly. It may be something I see when I am queuing for lunch or driving in the car which used to amaze the pupils. What? You are a man and you can multitask? But the point I was trying to make is that prayer can be formal or informal as it is the relationship between us and God that matters. And you can’t build on that relationship without speaking and listening. Prayer is a two-way process.

When I read the article that fell out of my purchased book, it reminded me that, even though for most of the time I am alone when I pray the Morning and Evening Offices, actually, I am never alone in prayer as there will always be someone else in the world praying at the exact time that I am doing so. And, of course, and most importantly, God is always with us too.

Some people worry about not knowing what to say in prayer, or even that they may get it wrong. But we are reminded that we are not alone.

*‘In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts*

*knows what the mind of the Spirit is because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.'* (Romans 8:26-28)

So as the evenings draw in and it gets colder and darker, let us all think about our own prayer lives and how we can come closer to our God. Perhaps we could read our Bibles more and be inspired by the words which will help us in our praying. Perhaps we can think about using new books or suitable materials to help structure our prayers. After all, we all need God in our lives and so does our world and the people around us.

So let us support, encourage and pray for each other this month as we move forward together in faith, hope and love.

God bless you all.

*Fr Wayne*

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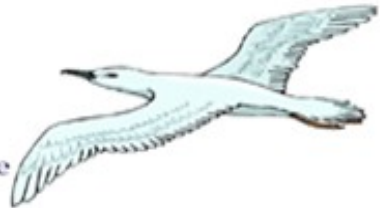
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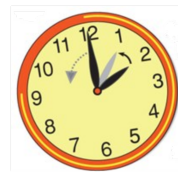
the unrestrained enjoyment of natural rights: power of free choice : privileges:

permission free range: leisure: disposal: the bounds within which certain privileges are enjoyed .

"Chambers"



## **Don't forget!** **Clocks go back one hour** **at 2am on Sunday 27th October**



The temperatures are starting to drop and autumn is well and truly on the way. But one sure way to know we are leaving the summer behind is when the clocks change.

But why do we change the clocks?

The basic principle is to transfer an hour of daylight from the evening to the morning, and that's precisely what the Germans did two years into the First World War. Suffering from coal shortages they changed the clocks to preserve energy by adding an extra hour onto the start of the workday. This was the first time Daylight Saving Time (DST) had been put into practice, but the concept was far from new. Benjamin Franklin first suggested the idea in a letter to *Journal de Paris* in 1784. He suggested the city could save an '*immense sum*' by not burning candles in the dark evening hours, but he fell short of recommending the clocks change to facilitate this.

However, in the UK in 1907, one William Willett suggested to Parliament that changing the time would prevent '*wasting*' daylight'. His rather complicated plan was to advance clocks by 80 minutes, in four separate moves of 20 minutes each.

In some respects, William's wish came true when the UK passed the Summer Time Act in May 1916, ordaining that for a certain period during the year, legal time should be one hour in advance of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time).

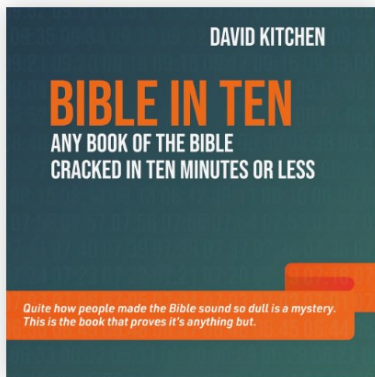
Now more than 70 countries around the globe change their clocks, with most European countries changing their clocks at the end of March and again at the end of October. However, most countries around the equator don't change their clocks, due to little variation in daylight across the year.

There are plenty of people who'd like to see the end of DST. For a start, it's been argued that DST doesn't save energy and it could be making people sick. However, with little scientific grounding, the debate about changing the clocks looks set to continue. So don't forget to put your clocks back!

# The Bible in Ten

*Tony Harris*

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Mothers' Union and Judith in particular, for arranging the talk by David Kitchen, the author of this wonderful book, on the 3rd of September at All Saints hall. David lives in Cardiff and is an award-winning writer, broadcaster, teacher, poet and storyteller. He started by explaining some of the influences that inspired him to hone his skills as a poet and word-smith, using some of his own poems as examples. He then moved on to explain how, following a conversation with Rob Lacey (author of the Street Bible, who died of cancer in 2006), he was moved to take on the project of writing an introduction to the Bible that outlined the key messages in every one of its 67 books, each of which could be read in roughly ten minutes.



Each chapter provides a short, sharp snapshot of a single book in the Bible. They concentrate on explaining key aspects and act as a springboard for getting to know the whole story more fully. It provides a way to step aside from the chapters, verses and often complex language that the Bible has been presented in over the centuries, to briefly see the core message of each book as an entity.

Overviews like this don't answer every question you will ever have about the Bible but what you should have by the end of the book is a much clearer idea of what the Bible contains and also a clearer sense of how beautiful, astonishing and unpredictable God's library is.

Reading this book obviously isn't the same as reading the whole Bible but it's a sound start towards understanding it. Having participated in, and co-led Bible study groups over many years I fully appreciate just how valuable a resource like this can be. The Bible study group that Lydia and I host at the moment is currently studying Paul's letter to the church in Rome, using the materials prepared by Andrew

Ollerton (another Cardiff boy!) and made available through the Bible Society. The chapter penned by David that covers that particular book of the Bible (importantly seen by some as Paul's personal Gospel) is certainly a wonderful overview, but the study group allows us together to delve much more deeply into the subtleties of its text, having had our appetites wetted.

Tackling the Bible can feel like a mammoth and potentially daunting task and I personally have certainly often wondered where best to start (Genesis, Matthew?). This book is an excellent starting point in my view. You'd also be more than welcome, wherever you live in the Ministry Area, to join our Bible study group, which meets at our home every Thursday evening, if you feel curious or moved to do so.

God bless

*Tony*

### **Things You Think Are in the Bible, but Really Aren't**

- An apple in the garden  
Western art has traditionally depicted the fruit Adam and Eve ate in the garden as an apple. The Bible is not that specific. Genesis 3:6 describes Eve eating some of the "fruit" and sharing it with Adam.
- Money is the root of all evil  
Close, but the frequently quoted phrase is missing a few important words. 1 Timothy 6:10 actually says that the love of money is the root of all *kinds of* evil.
- Cleanliness is next to godliness  
The Old Testament contains lots of rules about ritual cleanliness, but this biblical-sounding proverb is nowhere to be found in the Scriptures. Some form may have originated in ancient Middle Eastern religious writings. Scientist Francis Bacon had a version, but the modern quote first originated in a John Wesley sermon.
- God works in mysterious ways  
The Bible is full of God doing things in unusual (to us) ways. Isaiah 55:8-9 reminds us that God's ways are different from ours, but this phrase is found nowhere in the Bible.

# Newton Nottage Mothers' Union

*Judith Shawe*



What a privilege it was to listen to David Kitchen at the September meeting. He is an author and broadcaster and he talked about his book 'The Bible in 10'. This is every book of the Bible concentrated into 10-minute 'bites'! Tony Harris has written about this elsewhere in the magazine (thank you Tony).

I was pleased to see visitors from our churches, plus visitors from Gilgal. I have a copy of the book if anyone would like to borrow it.

The next MU meeting is on Tuesday 1st October at 2pm, in All Saints Hall, when our speaker will be Fr Jeff Lunn. Everyone is very welcome.

We shared much-loved prayers in Prayer Group. It was lovely to hear the stories behind peoples' choice of prayer and to have the privilege of walking down memory lane with some our older members.

Everyone is welcome to join us in the Lady Chapel once a month - our next Group is on Tuesday 15th October at 2pm.

CROESO Tea is on October 5th - there's a mini concert at 2pm with Catherine Mayor (Flute) and Karen Hnyda (Piano), followed by tea at 3pm. All donations will be for Cystic Fibrosis - it would be great to see you in All Saints for music, tea and cake!

## **A little light relief**

*Submitted by Helen Owen*

Isn't it amazing what you come across when sorting through old documents. This is from a page entitled 'Howlers extracted from letters about pensions'.

- Unless I get my husband's money, I will be compelled to lead an Immortal Life.
- In accordance with your instructions I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.
- I want my money as quickly as you can send it. I have been in bed with the doctor for a week and he doesn't seem to be doing me any good, and if things don't alter I shall have to get another doctor.
- Dental Enquiry. The teeth on the top are alright but those in my bottom are hurting terribly.

## Congratulations!

Many congratulations to two couples living in Nottage who were married on the same day. Both Jenny and Graham Cross and Marian and Peter Millis celebrated their Sapphire Wedding Anniversary in September. What a great achievement!

Alongside very special greetings from the King and Queen, as well as best wishes from family and friends, they also celebrated with their church family in All Saints and St David's.



## Superb Concert!

*Judith Shawe*

As the 'booking clerk' for All Saints, I have the privilege to experience all sorts of musical events at the church, so it's a joy to write this.

We were treated to a very enjoyable night on Tuesday, when Cowbridge Male Voice Choir teamed up with the German Winds Symphonic Wind Band to provide a really superb night of music.

The band is an orchestra project which plays charity concerts all over Europe. The musicians meet up 4 times a year to prepare for the tours. The RNLi benefitted from this concert held in All Saints. I didn't really know what to expect, but I was so pleased I was there - such a variety of repertoire, beautifully and sensitively played under the direction of Sven Hellinghausen, a renowned musician and composer.

Cowbridge MVC certainly made their mark under the baton of Rhiannon Williams, a truly gifted musician. The sound was lovely and combination items were well received, especially 'Anfonaf Angel' where the choir was accompanied by the Band.

The evening ended with the German and Welsh National anthems.

A truly superb concert!

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### **“Be Still”**

#### **Contemplative Prayer**

Be Still is a scriptural-led quiet time with God. Hosted by Valerie Fyans, it is on the third Tuesday every month at 8pm on Zoom. Each session is approximately 40 minutes.

For more information, contact Valerie on 07881 818760.



## A Brief History of St David's Church, Nottage

St David's Church in Nottage came into existence in 1948. Before this time Communion Services had been held in a house named 'Redlands' in West Road. However, soon after the end of the Second World War steps were taken to have a church built in Nottage and a small wooden church were erected in 1948 on land kindly given by Mr. J. K. Blundell. The building was an ex-Church Army hut that had been purchased from an RAF camp. The site had been used by the American Forces during the war and two Nissen hut buildings that they had left, were also acquired. These were used as a schoolroom and anteroom. The small mission church was dedicated to St. David and consecrated by the Bishop of Llandaff on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1948.

By 1967, the life of the Nissen huts had come to an end and in 1968 they were demolished and a classroom style timber church hall was built. In 1970 part of the original site was sold for housing (now The Glade) and in 1978 the car park and stone boundary walls were constructed.

By 1991, in order to cater for the growing community in Nottage it was decided to build a new church on the existing site. It was agreed and building work on Stage 1 began on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1992.

Money was raised from grants, donations and hard work by many in fundraising. The work began with the demolition of the old church and while the building work was taking place all services were held in the hall.

It was a nostalgic and sad time for many people but the old bell was saved and reinstalled in the new church. The church (Stage 1) was completed on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1992 and consecrated by Roy, Bishop of Llandaff on 12<sup>th</sup> November. The hall work (Stage 2) was started on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1994 and all building work completed by 19<sup>th</sup> May 1995.

2025 will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the new building and we look forward to celebrating.

## The History of the Red Poppy



More than a hundred years on from the end of the First World War, wearing a poppy to remember servicemen and women who have fallen in wars is respectful and an honour. But do you know why we wear a poppy?

The Canadian soldier and poet John McCrae noticed that poppies grew along the edges of the churned-up battlefields and burial grounds in Flanders. Even as the previously beautiful countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over again and again, the delicate but resilient bright red poppies grew in their thousands. After the death of a friend, he composed the poem *'In Flanders Fields'*.

In 1918, Moina Michael, an American who was working in the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries HQ in New York, read his poem and began a campaign to have the flowers recognised as a Memorial Poppy. In 1920, the American Legion adopted it as its symbol and stipulated that a red poppy would be worn by each member every 11 November.

The British Legion was formed in 1921 and sold 9 million red silk poppies that year, raising £106,000 to help World War Veterans. The following year, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen.

Today the factory and Legion's warehouse in Aylesford produce millions of poppies each year raising many millions of pounds for veterans.

Their need to raise funds is as relevant today as it was then.

Wear your poppy with pride.

When to wear your Poppy?

The Royal British Legion suggests wearing your Poppy throughout the Remembrance period which, this year, is from Friday 25 October until Monday 11 November.



## News from St John's

*Diane Jackson*



Autumn has definitely arrived- some days even winter!

We were delighted to hear that Julie Warren's three grandchildren, Lucie, Clark and Heidi had all done extremely well in the recent GCSEs. Julie, naturally, is very proud of them. We wish all three of them the very best for the future and with their further studies.

As mentioned in last month's magazine, Diane and Gareth Lewis celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with us on 29th August, which was also our patronal feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist. The Friday morning started with our Church service and with so many attending to help celebrate their Anniversary, the church was especially decorated with the most beautiful flowers by some of the ladies of the Flower Guild. As part of their celebrations, Diane and Gareth treated all the Friday morning regulars, as well as friends from their wider church family, to a most magnificent spread with the usual tea and coffee and also prosecco. It was a lovely morning, much enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended. Thank you both so very much for including us all in you celebrations. We all wish you many happy and healthy years together.

*Congratulations*

Our Harvest Lunch takes place on Sunday 6th October which we are all looking forward to. Make sure that if you have put your name down, that you pay prior to the day to secure your place.

If you have anything of interest that you would like to see mentioned in the magazine regarding events or people associated with our church, please let me know so I can include it. My phone number is 01656 785353.

Finally, a note to anyone who likes to sing! The choir are on the look-out for new members. If you like to sing and are interested in joining the choir, contact Julie Warren and you will be made very welcome.

### **St John's Summer Fayre—Presentation evening**

The cheque presentation is on Friday 11th October at 7pm in St John's Schoolroom. Everyone is welcome!

# Jam and Jerusalem

## Margam Ministry Area Jam's and Chutney's Ideal for Christmas

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# this season

## Ever Wonder Why? Autumn 2024

Have you ever had a question so hard you wouldn't even say it out loud? Or a doubt so big you didn't feel like you could share it—especially at church?

Maybe it's time to ask the tough questions together in the series, Ever Wonder Why? Help us to explore during this season of Margam Calling.....

Sunday 22nd September 2024  
Why Did God Let It Happen?

Sunday 6th October 2024  
A Voice From Hell

20th October 2024  
Why Didn't God Answer My Prayer?

Sunday 3rd November 2024  
Does God Love Me?

**St Theodore's Church @ 5:30pm**

remember  
**you're  
invited!!**

[www.margamecalling.org.uk](http://www.margamecalling.org.uk)

## The Family Breakfast—Up Close

*James Thomas*

At St. James Church in Pyle, we've been incredibly proud to witness the growing success of our *Family Breakfast* initiative. Every Saturday morning, from 9:30am to 11:30am, the church hall buzzes with warmth, laughter and the clinking of cutlery as families gather for a wholesome, by donation, breakfast. It's not just about the food - though bacon rolls, toast, and cereal are certainly crowd favourites - but also about creating a space where people of all ages can relax, connect, and enjoy each other's company without any financial burden.

This initiative, launched with the simple goal of providing a by-donation meal to local families, has blossomed into something much more. The volunteers, many of whom are long-time members of the church and the local community, prepare and serve the food with care. For them, it's not just about handing out plates but ensuring every visitor feels welcomed and valued.

The beauty of this breakfast is in its simplicity. In today's fast-paced world, the opportunity to sit down as a family - whether with relatives or neighbours - over a meal is rare. We often hear from attendees how much they appreciate having a place where the focus is purely on being together. Families don't need to worry about preparing breakfast or tidying up after; they can simply enjoy quality time.

As a community, we've always believed in supporting each other, especially during tough times. The rising cost of living has affected many households in Pyle and the surrounding area, and this breakfast provides a much-needed respite, especially for families with children. It's a small gesture, but one that goes a long way in easing the burden for parents trying to balance work, home life and financial pressures.

Beyond the practical support, this breakfast is also about building connections. It's a chance for new faces to meet, friendships to form, and conversations to flow. We've seen how, over time, it's helped to create a stronger, more tight-knit community. From local volunteers sharing stories with the families to children playing together after

breakfast, the event brings a sense of belonging that has become a highlight of the week for many.

Recognition of the *Family Breakfast* initiative has also been incredibly rewarding. The Mayor's Citizenship Awards highlighted our efforts in bringing people together, which has only encouraged us to keep growing this programme. Seeing the impact on families, especially during challenging times, has reaffirmed our commitment to keeping the event going for as long as there's a need.

For those of us involved behind the scenes, the work doesn't feel like a chore - it's an act of love. Whether it's slicing bacon or buttering toast, every small task contributes to something much bigger: a community of care, connection and shared experience. We invite all families, whether local or from further afield, to join us for breakfast and experience this heart-warming atmosphere themselves.



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## **Five little pebbles lay in a brook**

And nobody passing cast even a look.

“What are we good for?” said one to another;

“Little or nothing, I think”, said the other.

Wearing away, day after day,

It seemed that forever those pebbles must stay.

If they stood out in the crowd from the rest  
Or if they were cherished like eggs in a nest  
Or if they were big stones that built up a wall,  
They’d feel more important, not useless and small.  
But wait, little pebbles, rounded and clean,  
There in your loneliness, lying unseen,  
God has a future especially for you;  
Five little pebbles, sturdy and true.

The five little pebbles hid in the brook,

Then David came down and gave them a look.

He picked them up carefully out of the sand,

The five little pebbles lay in his hand.

Soon there was fighting not far away

And the five little pebbles entered the fray.

David put one of them into his sling,  
In no time at all the pebble went ‘Zing’.  
Swift as an arrow, straight as a dart,  
For all of that nation the stone played its part.  
Striking a giant right on the head  
And laying him low – a mighty man dead!

Those five little pebbles found in the brook

Are mentioned with honour in God’s Holy Book.

Are you like those pebbles, lying quite low

With little to do and nowhere to go?

Then make sure you’re ready when God comes to look,

He may want to use you, like the stones in the brook.

The five smooth stones David had in his pouch represent what David carried in his heart; **Faith – Trust - Courage – Obedience - Praise.**

## News from St Theodore's

*Margaret Griffiths*

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" – that is supposed to be autumn, but apart from a few days of sun recently, the next weeks are forecast to bring rain, rain and more rain.

It is always a pleasure for us in St Theodore's to support young people's music making. So once again we hosted the Da Capo and Crescendo choirs annual concert. For some members of Da Capo, this was their first performance with the choir and they were only eight or nine years old! Packed house as usual and the choirs were supported by Emyr Roberts who performed solos on both the cornet and cello.

In November, St Theodore's will be the venue for an EPTA (European Piano Teachers Association) event, with young piano students performing for their families.

It is that time of year when we celebrate Harvest. In years gone by we would decorate the church with flowers, fruit and vegetables. I don't know if all the fresh produce got given away to those in need before it was past its best! Nowadays though we are more likely to collect for our local Foodbank and in our Margam Ministry Area, the weekly Pyle Family Breakfast. Unfortunately, the need is still there to support these organisations.

On Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 p.m. St Theodore's Mothers' Union will be holding a Christmas Fayre in St Theodore's. By then Christmas will be approaching, so if you have any social events planned that will require evening wear, don't forget our charity shop Theo's on Bridge Street in Kenfig Hill. They will be displaying a selection of evening wear during November, I am sure.

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### *Five little pebbles continued*

Whenever we face any kind of giant in our lives, we can carry these five stones with us wherever we go and face each giant one stone at a time and receive victory!

*This poem, provided by The Association for Church Editors, is adapted from the original version written by William Luff 1850-1935*



## News from Margam Abbey

*Bev Gulley*

A wet month and close of the summer season arrived, and we look forward to a slightly! quieter time as October beckons.

Thanks must be passed to all of our volunteers, who have ensured that the Abbey has remained open throughout a long season (from Easter in March); those who prepared, ran and donated to the summer fete (particularly Chris Munday); the volunteers who took part in CADW 'Open Doors' event: including a very well-attended 'Theatrical History Tour', 6 tours of the Stones Museum, and it was such a wet day that 'Tales' rather than 'Trails' was the order for stories from the Graveyard, (the last 2 talks having been washed out). Other talks included: 'Emily Charlotte Talbot'; an Abbey tour and talk on the Vestments, by Pam, for Trefoil Guiding for Adults group and participation in a Travel blog, on behalf of NPT Tourism department. It was delightful to meet 'The Friends of Hereford Cathedral', on a pilgrimage, following the itinerary in 1188 of Gerald of Wales, who wrote about his stay at the noble Abbey of Margam.

Amy and Edward's wedding was a joy, with the church adorned with beautiful floral decorations and the hall used for the reception. Fabulous!

As ever, our Servers must have a mention. Those who turn up weekly to serve, and the behind-the-scenes preparation and photocopying for weekly bulletins, often 'under the radar'. Canon Graham Holcombe presided at a sung mass enjoyed by all. A Requiem Mass was held for Malcolm and Anne Wills. Anthony has been busy (as ever) sorting out the fabric and associated issues.

Looking forward:

October has the theme of 'Weddings' – So, if anyone would like to get in touch with Bev Gulley (07530 421220), if you have any photos of Margam Abbey Weddings, they can be copied and included in the display (fully credited). On the 29th October at 2pm, there is a 'Children's Wedding' and at the end of the month, 'Spooky' themes will be included in the very successful children's corner, (thanks to





Liz), which is very well used by our own little people at Mass and so many visitors.

Mothers' Union (meeting on the 3rd Monday at 2pm) at the Drill Hall, goes from strength to strength, with 2 new members, sisters Averil and Sue, inducted by Canon Hanford. The October meeting is a talk on *'The Prince of Wales' Inn Kenfig*, probably in situ.

We wish Magnus and Bethan, and Matthew and Krysten every blessing for their October marriages, at the Abbey.

We are very much looking forward to our Harvest Festival, and the Annual Concert of *'The Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir'* on Saturday the 19th October.

Mynydd Cynffig Primary School, once again, visit with year 3 pupils, to learn about when Margam was an Abbey. Bell ringing is tops!

At the end of October, the Abbey display will be for Remembrance *'The Men on our Memorial'*.

## **65 years posting by numbers**

On 11 October 1959, Britain began introducing postcodes. Starting in Norwich, by 1974 they had been rolled out across the whole country.

The idea was to speed up sorting after the mechanisation of the postal system. For the process to work, people had to use it, and it was therefore important to make sure everyone could remember their postcode easily. Psychologists from Cambridge University were asked to assist in their design.

This worked so well that a survey in 2016 revealed that people are now more likely to remember their postcode than their debit card PIN (92% compared with 77%). And the information sticks; apparently 17% of people questioned could still remember the postcode of the house they lived in up to 30 years earlier.

Today the postcode is more than simply a tool for the Royal Mail. It is used by online retailers and logistics companies to track and deliver orders accurately; by the emergency services to quickly identify the location of an urgent situation; by local governments to make sure public services are delivered efficiently; and by data analysts to analyse market trends. Let's raise a toast to the postcode!

## **Bath Spa Revisited**

*Adrian Warner*

Recently Porthcawl U3A organised a coach day trip to Bath. A friend booked to celebrate her birthday but I found no seats left. So I went by train, and using my national rail card found it comparable in price. I travelled early to have time to find Wetherspoons for coffee and a quick walk around before sitting in the sunshine in front of the Abbey trying to do a cryptic crossword. Sometimes looking up the answers in the back is better than agonising for ever!

It has been nearly twenty years since my last time in beautiful Bath. Some small changes, but splendid as ever and full of memories. Litter, graffiti and beggar free, full of smiling faces and history. Many people were in period costume.

My phone rang; the coach was unloading nearby and my friend joined me a couple of minutes later. Our aim was to spend time inside the Abbey, have lunch and see all the sights in the centre before the coach departed four hours later. The Abbey walls are covered with memorial plaques, often of marble, the floor is covered with tombstone plaques detailing those who lie below. Down stairs at one side is an interesting museum, toilets and a shop with the most fantastic range of objects.

Finding a fine place for a birthday lunch was a problem. Everybody else seemed to also want a nice place for lunch. Eventually a vacant table outside in the sunshine was found and food enjoyed. The sun had moved round to highlight Jacob's ladder on the Abbey facade of golden local stone. Passing by the Roman Baths and the Pump Room we crossed a square with street performers and really enjoyed a two scoop tub in an ice-cream salon. Much more pleasant than walking a crowded street carrying a cone with the sunshine causing it to run down all over your hand while trying to lick it all fast before it got worse, and then nowhere to wash that sticky hand.

A surprise: the Friends Meeting House with its columned front is now a bookshop with packed shelves to the high ceiling. Delightful, but such a change from that still, contemplative silence of the past. Sally Lunn's around the corner had to be photographed before walking to

see the river with that exciting view of the triple half elliptical weir and the bridge (lined on both sides with shops) over the Avon. All overlooked by the 'Sham Castle' high on the skyline walk. The 3.39 direct train to Cardiff had me back in Penarth as the coach reached Porthcawl. The photographs, pamphlets and memories of this revisit will be long treasured.

## **Be an excellent church pianist**

*Discovered on Facebook by John Berry BEM*

### **Immoral, impossible, God only knows**

(Tune: St Denio H82 #423)

1. Immoral, impossible, God only knows  
how tenors and basses, sopranos, altos  
at service on Sunday are rarely the same  
as those who on Thursday to choir practice came.
2. Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,  
nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their throats.  
The descant so piercing is soaring above  
a melody only a mother could love.
3. They have a director, but no one knows why;  
no one in the choir deigns to turn him an eye.  
It's clear by his flailing, he wants them to look,  
but each singer stands there with nose in the book.
4. Despite the offences, the music rings out.  
The folks in the pews are enraptured, no doubt.  
Their faces are blissful, their thoughts appear deep,  
but this is no wonder, for they are asleep.

*Copyright ©Austin Lovelace and Ron Hodges. May be used freely for non-commercial church-related events.*

*Notes: Verse 1, by Austin Lovelace. Verses 2-4 added by Ron Hodges (choir St Mark's, Palo Alto, California, USA) for the church's 50<sup>h</sup> anniversary in November 1998.*



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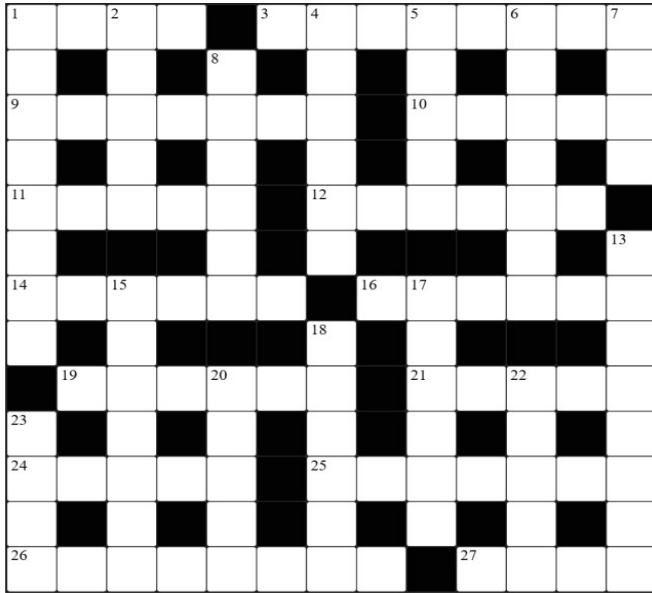
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# Quick Crossword



## Across

- 1 In this place (4)
- 3 Careful (8)
- 9 Drinker (7)
- 10 Reimburse (5)
- 11 Broadcasting medium (5)
- 12 Mark made by folding (6)
- 14 Overcast (6)
- 16 Prison officer (6)
- 19 Lottery with goods as prizes (6)
- 21 Navy (5)
- 24 Tale (5)
- 25 Defect (7)
- 26 Dawn (8)
- 27 Take notice of (4)

## Down

- 1 Bowling feat (3,5)
- 2 Fast (5)
- 4 Continent (6)
- 5 Concise, pithy (5)
- 6 Resisted (7)
- 7 Mythical river of the underworld (4)
- 8 Edible nut (6)
- 13 Miserable (8)
- 15 Speech-making (7)
- 17 Cake-burning king (6)
- 18 Country formally part of Yugoslavia (6)
- 20 Lobby (5)
- 22 Chosen few (5)
- 23 Second-hand (4)

**Quick Crossword Answer** (page29)

1	H	E	2	R	E		3	C	4	A	5	U	6	T	7	I	8	O	9	U	10	S
	A		A		8	A		F		E		P		T								
9	T	I	P	P	L	E	R			10	R	E	P	A	Y							
	T		I		M		I		S		O		X									
11	R	A	D	I	O			12	C	R	E	A	S	E								
	I				N		A														13	W
14	C	L	15	O	U	D	Y			16	W	17	A	R	D	E	R					
	K		R					18	S		L											E
		19	R	A	F	20	F	L	E		21	F	L	22	E	E	T					
23	U		T		O		R		R		L		C									
24	S	T	O	R	Y			25	B	L	E	M	I	S	H							
	E		R		E		I		D		T		E									
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## WORSHIP IN THE MINISTRY AREA

### ***ALL SAINTS, Porthcawl***

Sunday: Mass at 08.00 & 10.00

Monday: Mass at 12.00

Wednesday: Mass at 11.00

### ***MARGAM ABBEY, Margam***

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.15

Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

### ***ST DAVID'S, Nottage***

Sunday: Mass at 09.30 & 17.00

Thursday: Mass at 10.30

### ***ST JAMES, Pyle***

Sunday: Mass at 11.15

Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

### ***ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Newton***

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.15

Evensong at **18.00**

Tuesday & Friday: Mass at 10.30

### ***ST MARY MAGDALENE, Maudlam***

Sunday: Mass at 09.30

Wednesday: Mass at 11.00

### ***ST THEODORE'S, Kenfig Hill***

Sunday: Mass at 10.00

Family Mass 1st Sunday of the month

**Margam Calling** - 5.30pm every other Sunday

see [www.margamcalling.org.uk](http://www.margamcalling.org.uk) for details

Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

*For details of all other services,  
visit [www.margam.org.uk](http://www.margam.org.uk)*



## Pause for Thought

### Did Jesus use a modem on the Sermon on the Mount?

Did He ever try a broadcast fax to get His message out?  
Did the disciples carry beepers as they went out and about?  
Did Jesus use a modem on the Sermon on the Mount?

Did the Apostles use a laptop with lots of RAM and ROM?  
Did He use an email such as Paul@Rome.com?  
Did the man from Macedonia post an email saying 'Come'?

Did Moses use a joystick at the parting of the sea?  
And a Satellite Guidance Tracking System to show Him where to be?  
Did He write the law on tablets or are they really on CD?  
Did Moses use a joystick at the parting of the sea?

Did Jesus really die for us that Friday on a tree?  
Or was it just a hologram - some high-tech wizardry?  
Can you download the video to play on your PC?

If in your life the voice of God is sometimes hard to hear,  
With other voices calling, His doesn't touch your ear.  
Then set aside your laptop, unplug the fancy gear,  
Open up that dusty Bible and talk to Him in prayer!

*From an early 'Internet for Christians' newsletter*

## Margam Ministry Area

### Clergy:

Fr Jonathan Durley (*MA Leader*) 01656 670148 [jonathandurley@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:jonathandurley@churchinwales.org.uk)  
Porthcawl Churches Office [PorthcawlChurches@gmail.com](mailto:PorthcawlChurches@gmail.com)  
Fr Wayne David 01656 858935 [WayneDavid@cinw.org.uk](mailto:WayneDavid@cinw.org.uk)  
The Rev'd Dr Duncan Walker 01656 740500 [revduncan.walker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revduncan.walker@hotmail.co.uk)  
The Rev'd Claire Stowell 07813 767956 [stowellclaire@gmail.com](mailto:stowellclaire@gmail.com)

### Reader:

Mrs Grace Wylde 07966 083196 [gwylde16@outlook.com](mailto:gwylde16@outlook.com)

### Chair of the Ministry Area Council:

Mrs Wendy Xerri 07752 487467 [wendy@xerri.wales](mailto:wendy@xerri.wales)

### Area Wardens:

Mr Gareth Baker 07791 367918 [gareth.baker@acuitylaw.com](mailto:gareth.baker@acuitylaw.com)  
Mr David-Lloyd Jones 07747 151205 [davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com)

### Treasurer:

Dr Paul Smart 01656 788086 [pmsmart@aol.com](mailto:pmsmart@aol.com)

### Safeguarding Officer:

Mr Dave Xerri 07850 129079 [dave@xerri.wales](mailto:dave@xerri.wales)

### Church subwardens:

<b>All Saints, Porthcawl</b>	Mrs Helen Owen	01656 785763
	Mrs Judith Shawe	01656 786446
<b>Saint John the Baptist, Newton</b>	Mrs Liz Singer	01656 785628
	Miss Denver Whale	01656 782573
<b>Saint David, Nottage</b>	Mr Clive Edwards	01656 784698
	Mrs Catherine Powell	07875 834740
<b>Saint Mary Magdalene, Maudlam</b>	Mr John Roberts	07851 122804
	Mrs Eileen Edwards	07530 989433
<b>Saint James, Pyle</b>	Mrs Vanessa Evans	07817 787544
	Mrs Dawn Edwards	07419 822913
<b>Saint Theodore, Kenfig Hill</b>	Mrs Margaret Phillips	07748 678827
	Mrs Margaret Griffiths	07477 648871
<b>Margam Abbey</b>	Mrs Wendy Greensmith	01656 300691
	Mrs Bev Gulley	07530 421220

### Hall Bookings

<b>Parish Hall, Pyle</b>	Sue Roberts	01656 741030
<b>All Saints, Porthcawl</b>	<a href="mailto:porthcawllallsaintshall@gmail.com">porthcawllallsaintshall@gmail.com</a>	
<b>St David, Nottage</b>	Clive Edwards	01656784698
<b>St John the Baptist, Newton</b>	Ann Howells	07837 406397
<b>Margam Abbey Hall</b>	Bev Gulley	07530 421220
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A Visual Snapshot of the Ministry Area



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