



# Margam

## Ministry Area Magazine



# Easter 2025



## YMCA Porthcawl

a member of Churches Together in Porthcawl  
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## Three years on!



Do you know, three years ago this month was the very first Margam Ministry Area magazine!

These pages have evolved from a parish magazine covering the churches in Porthcawl to a larger publication reaching a much wider audience across eight churches. Thanks to a great group of contributors, it still has an eclectic mix of content, with news and chatter to inform, entertain and uplift you.

Thank you too to all our readers. We love to hear from you and are always open to new ideas about the sort of articles you'd like to see. We're keen to reflect the richness and diversity of our community in its pages.

This month covers Lent, Holy Week and Easter moving from quiet reflection through to excitement and celebration. In these uneasy times, let's hope that those celebrations extend well beyond our shores. I'm sure, like me, you pray for an end to the various conflicts and for lasting peace.

Enjoy reading this issue, I look forward to seeing you again in May. Please let me have your news and views, stories and snippets for the May issue by 24th April (just after Easter!).

Have a happy Easter!

*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:** Raising the flag on St David's Day at St John's, Newton

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

On the website: [www.margam.org.uk](http://www.margam.org.uk)

And on our Facebook pages too:

- Churches of Newton, Nottage & Porthcawl in the Margam Ministry Area
- Churches of Pyle & Kenfig - Margam Abbey Church
- St Theodore's—St Colman in the Margam Ministry Area

#### **Margam Calling**

[www.margamcalling.org.uk](http://www.margamcalling.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/MargamCalling](https://www.facebook.com/MargamCalling)

Dear Friends,

*Fr. Jonathan*

I do hope and pray as the Lenten Season continues, that it is proving to be fruitful and blessed time. While Lent is a time when we respond to God's generosity in practical ways – our lifestyles, our use of time, money and talents - we are also called to respond in worship, which I hope many of you have discovered through the various and special Lenten devotions that have taken place across the Ministry Area!

As we now look forward, we will have a special opportunity to walk and worship with Jesus, as day by day we follow the events of Holy Week in a few weeks time.

Palm Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April is the start of Holy Week, as many of our services will begin with the blessing of the new Palm Crosses, followed by a Procession, as we re-enact Jesus's joyful entry into Jerusalem, acclaimed by his followers. That first entry was a challenge to the religious and secular authorities, who decided he had to go, and so in this service we also start to turn our thoughts towards Good Friday. So, we include the dramatic reading of the Passion Story on Palm Sunday which forms a sort of overture to Holy Week.

Through the week we follow the journey of Jesus and witness the tension building as Jesus continued to challenge the authorities, and they continued to plot against him. Our Eucharists at 7.00pm on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and Holy Wednesday will take us deeper into that journey. Our Maundy Thursday evening Eucharist's (17<sup>th</sup>) are rooted in the context of the Jewish Passover, the celebration of their liberation from slavery, so central to their history and beliefs, reminding us of the Jewish roots of Jesus' ministry, and the Jewish understanding of God as the one who saves. This Eucharist of the Last Supper recalls Jesus' last Passover meal with his disciples, and his words 'Do this in remembrance of me'.

After this, we can remember Jesus's final struggle with his fate in the Garden of Gethsemane, and his words 'Could you not stay awake with me one hour'. This leads us into Good Friday, 18<sup>th</sup>, and the final act of the story – Jesus's arrest, his trial, and his death on the cross. Without Good Friday, there would be no Easter! To deepen your

experience of Easter, come and join in one of our acts of response to the Cross!

And then we draw a breath, and wait through Holy Saturday 19th, as the disciples did – though we do also have the opportunity to help clean and decorate our churches!

Easter begins in Margam Abbey and All Saints with the celebration of the Easter Vigil, as we light the Easter fire, from which we light the Paschal Candles, welcoming the Light of Christ and we joyfully proclaim again ‘Christ is Risen!’.

Our celebrations continue with our Easter Sunday celebration when we welcome again in all our churches the Light of Christ, we bless the Easter Garden and renew our baptismal vows, recommitting ourselves to the Risen Christ.

So, in order that we immerse ourselves in the true celebration of Easter, may we commit ourselves to journey with Jesus through his passion in Holy Week, so that we can join in that triumphant anthem – ‘Surrexit Christus! Alleluia! - Christ is risen! Alleluia!

*Love and Prayers,  
Fr. Jonathan*

## Ministry Area Magazine

Magazine subscriptions are now due.  
Annual subscription for 10 issues is £7.00.  
The price for a single issue is 80p.  
**PLEASE NOTE: all profits go to your own church.**

Please can you pay the person who delivers your magazine or the magazine rep in your church.

Alternatively you can pay by BACS to (CAF Bank) Sort Code - 40-52-40 :  
Account Number - 00007843. Please include reference YOURNAME-Mag25.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Fr Wayne*

I can't believe that it is April already and yet it is rather a funny time in which to write an article for the Ministry Area Magazine. Depending on when you are reading this article, we are either still in the season of Lent, in Holy Week or have just begun the season of Easter.

Many of you know what I chose to do for Lent, as I kept banging on about it which is not good. For those of you who do not know what I decided to do, let me remind you. I decided to give up sweets and chocolate bars and tried to take on walking or cycling daily. Now I must be totally honest with you – during Lent I did fail at both. My cycling lasted a day and my walking lasted a week. I feel that I haven't had a chocolate bar as people have told me that Kit-Kats don't count as they are biscuits so that is one thing I am pleased about. As for the sweets – I was tempted but did well until one day, after a very busy morning and afternoon, I just had to have a sugar rush so I caved in whilst in the Co-op and bought some Haribo sweets to gain more energy to carry on running around like a headless chicken. I do hope your Lent is going/went better than mine did.

In Lent we began our Ministry Area Confirmation classes for people wishing to be Confirmed. The 3 priests of the Ministry Area ran the sessions which were well attended and it was pleasing to see a wide variety of people from all walks of life attending. Some young, others young at heart but nonetheless all moving forward in their journeys of faith. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as we move forward to the Confirmation Service which is going to be held in All Saints Church, Porthcawl on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.

During Lent we also held a variety of services in our Churches across the Ministry Area which helped us to focus on our faith journeys. Thank you to everyone who attended the extra services and activities held and for all those who volunteered to help in any way. We have also held our congregational meetings across the Churches ready for our Annual Vestry Meeting and I once again thank all those who have stepped forward in volunteering to take on different roles within each Church setting. With limited clergy and extra tasks thrust upon us, we thank God that these Church people put themselves forward to help

out. After all, we are the Church – the Body of Christ, rather than the aging buildings.

As I write this article for our magazine, I have just completed my sermon for our service tomorrow (Lent 3). In the Gospel for tomorrow's service, Jesus tells the parable of a man with a fig tree in his vineyard which has not produced any fruit for three years. The man tells his gardener to cut it down: It's just wasting space. But the gardener replies with patient optimism, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure." Perhaps a few of us feel like we are like the barren fig tree. We take up space, we bask in the sunshine and soak up the rainwater for ourselves, but give nothing back, producing no fruit for others to enjoy. Sometimes the busy-ness of life takes over and we can be quite happy to potter along with no bigger purpose in life, just being, but not giving; failing to see that we must bear fruit if we are to thrive and survive.

However busy we are, or however busy we feel we are, we must not fool ourselves. As Christians, we must ensure that we give time to others, and treat each other with love and respect. We are all sinners, but we must not make that our excuse when we do wrong. We must take time to confess our sins and then find a way to change our lives for the better. What Cardinal Newman meant when he said, "to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often". Followers of Jesus are expected to make changes, to do stuff. He commissions us "that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide" – Show kindness, give generously, help those in need, be compassionate and forgiving. It's all well and good to *believe* the right things but we must also *do* the right things. Our Christian faith is not simply a feeling or a good intention. It exists only in the sense that it is demonstrated. We might imagine that we are loving, but unless we love one another, this is just an idea in our head. We may think we are generous, but unless this is manifested in actual giving then it is just a thought about who we think we are.

As the Letter of James says: "Faith apart from works is dead." These good works are the fruits of the Spirit. And so we must let the Holy Spirit guide us as we serve one another by being 'The Church' in the communities where we live, work and worship. The gardener in the

parable of the fig tree suggests feeding the tree and waiting for the fruit to appear. Rather than writing it off, God also needs us to feed ourselves and others so that we can serve him faithfully and successfully, after all, we are his workers here on earth. So we need to ensure that we are fed by coming to Church on a regular basis and feeding on the Body and Blood of Jesus so that we can go out into our communities and be the Christians God wants us to be. We can take heart that Jesus is a patient gardener – he has our backs. He doesn't write us off, but is always ready to give us a second chance, ready to help us become the best person we can be.

Imagine if we have another year to produce some fruits for Christ. Can we ask him to dig around us, to fertilise us with the Spirit, to encourage us to acts of kindness for others? What changes can we make in the year ahead to turn our barren fig tree into something beautiful for God, to repay the patient trust he has shown in us? Our little fig tree will one day be no more and its ability to bear fruit will go with it. So let us not waste time; let us put our barren years behind us. Let us not dwell on our weaknesses or failures. Let us seize the opportunity whilst we still have time and see what fruit we can produce in the year ahead.

*I wish you all a Blessed and Happy Easter.*

*Fr Wayne*

## **What's your favourite Bible verse?**

According to Youversion.com the most popular Bible verse last year was Philipians 4:6 which says:

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Do you have a favourite Bible verse that you would like to share with other readers? If so send it to the editor with a short reason why it is important to you.

Youversion.com's mission is to encourage and challenge people to seek intimacy with God every day.

[www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/](http://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/)





MARGAM

Tyfu Ynghyd yng Nghrist - Growing Together in Christ

## THE MARGAM MINISTRY AREA

# 40 DAYS - 40 ITEMS LENT CHALLENGE

## LENT CHALLENGE

### 40 Days 40 Items Challenge

Instead of giving up something for Lent this year, why not try the 40 days - 40 items challenge?

Each day of Lent remove an item from your house which you don't use or wear anymore and place it in a black bag. You could also do non-perishable food items.

At the end of Lent donate these items to a charity shop, homeless shelter or foodbank.

They will be shared with those who really need them!



E. V. Eryone  
40 Days Challenge  
Margam Ministry Area  
South Wales

**YOU'RE INVITED  
TO TAKE PART**

## All in the month of April

4th April 1975 - Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

10th April 1633 - Bananas, never before seen in Britain, went on sale in a London shop.

12th April 1606 - The Union Flag became the official flag of Britain.

14th April 1983 - The first cordless telephone went on sale in Britain.

15th April 1755 - English lexicographer Dr Samuel Johnson published his Dictionary; he had taken nine years to compile it.

17th April 1875 - The game of snooker was invented by Neville Chamberlain, a British army officer stationed in India.

17th April 1969 - The age at which a person is eligible to vote in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18.

22nd April 1838 - The first steamship to cross the Atlantic, the British ship Sirius, arrived in New York; it made the crossing in 18 days.

27th April 1828 - The Zoological Society of London opened a zoological gardens in Regent's Park.

28th April 1770 - English naval explorer James Cook arrived in Botany Bay, Australia, the first European to do so.

29th April 1884 - Oxford University agreed to admit female students to examinations, but they were still not to be awarded degrees.

### **“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.



## News from All Saints

*Pam Rossini*



This is a light-hearted personal insight into hoarding. You may be the hoarder or the thrower-outer. I'm in the second category, so you'd expect everything to be neat and tidy with space to spare. Sadly, I'm also a surrogate hoarder. My husband hated throwing anything out – just in case it would come in handy. Often he was right and those old sweaters were handy for the dog to snuggle into.

However I have other family members who are hoarders on a different scale. Items are bought and left with me because I have a small area that could be handy for storing that odd settee or brand new chairs that will “only be left for a few days,” but end up staying for months. Under the stairs is a “glory hole” where masses of cables of different lengths and thicknesses have been lying undisturbed for many a year – kept ‘just in case’. Pictures large and small have been deposited there for me to take care of – lots too ugly to be put on any wall but can't be thrown as they have “sentimental value” – but not to me. Why is it I just don't say No – no more. Somehow I can't upset my little family who rely on me to look after their priceless pieces, so it looks like I'll be a surrogate hoarder for all my days.

Spring is officially here. The time when the garden looks its freshest, the carpet of crocus greets us outside the church and the daffodils and narcissi are resplendent in golden yellow. Although the winter has been long and bitter, we have better days to look forward to.

We have missed so many of our dear friends. Some are not well enough to get to church, some can't afford the expense of a taxi since most bus services have been cut, and many of our parishioners have passed away.

We were saddened to lose our dear Doris Sadeghi recently. Doris was so much a part of the life of our church and such an inspiration with her sweet smile and love. Our sincere condolences to her family.

Lent is a time to give thanks for the lives of all we have known and remember how their lives have embellished our own. Try to keep a good Lent. Not always easy but when we stumble, keep trying, one day at a time.

## News from St David's

*Pat Parry*



At our church meeting in March, Clive Edwards was re-elected as people's warden and Catherine Powell as Vicar's warden for St David's. Eight members put their names forward for the church committee and were duly elected. It was nice to welcome Dianne and Pam back in church following a time in hospital. Sadly, Jean Myers, a previous regular member of our congregation, died recently in Kent. We extend our sympathy to her family.

At our regular service on March 2nd we celebrated St David's day with Welsh music and hymns followed by bara brith, Welsh cakes and wine with our coffee. A Ministry Area Service for Ash Wednesday, led by Fr. Jonathon was held in St. David's but few attended from outside our regular congregation.

That was a busy week for me as I had been asked to play the organ for the World Day of Prayer in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. I did not know the songs in the leaflet nor how to source the music.

## Moving to Wales

*Peter Millis*

Peter Millis in his senior retirement has written a book - 'A Time for Telling'. Over one hundred years of family stories, life as it was, RAF days, the pleasures of work, rebuilding our church, design views, and hopes for the future.

An extract from Chapter 8 reads:

"I remember getting off the train at Port Talbot, looking around at the locals and saying to my parents, *they look much the same as we do*. Oh dear! What was a Lancashire boy expecting—miners going to work singing, or Welsh ladies in long woven dresses and pointed hats."

Moving to Wales was somewhat of a culture shock to say the least. No regrets however.



Many thanks to Mike Doyles who found and photocopied the music and coached the Trinity Choir to lead the singing at the service. I attended their rehearsal and a full rehearsal in the Catholic church where they had a fancy new organ. The theme of the 'World Day of Prayer' which had been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands, was 'I made you Wonderful'. Our local organisers had made floral crowns for everyone to wear as they entered the church. The sound of waves was played as people entered and the theme song 'I made you wonderful' was sung several times during the service. Readings in English and Welsh and stories of some Cook island women were read by members of the different churches in Porthcawl . We would like to thank the Priest and deacons of 'Our Lady of the Sea' for use of their church.

I am fearfully made and wonderfully made,  
Marvellous are your works  
That my soul knows very well.  
And I'll praise you all my days.

It reminded me of a touring holiday David and I went on 20 years ago all over New Zealand with several days in Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. The island is round and volcanic with a circular road running around the coast. There were minibuses going clockwise and anti-clockwise around the island. They would stop anywhere you wanted, no bus stops as such, and people piled on!

We were there on Easter Sunday and went to a church there. All the ladies wore white dresses and straw hats and the men, white shirts. The young children were running in and out bare-footed. They started singing before the organist started so he had to find the key. When we thought the hymn had finished the people came up with more and more verses! They invited us to a buffet lunch afterwards.

On another day there was a typical Maori wedding on the beach .The groom had a splendid cloak of kiwi feathers and the bride was brought to the venue on a canoe pulled through the shallow by four men. The couple were American but he had Maori ancestors. It was a wonderful holiday.

## Raising the flag at St John's

*Andrew Singer*



I took the photo on the front cover on St David's Day at St John's. This was after climbing up the tower (from the inside) to raise the flag. I realised that I was following in the footsteps of Peter Henry, David Philpot and countless others who have worn down the stone steps over the past 800 years!

I hope you enjoy seeing it as much as so many others have over the years!

### News from the Tower

*Rhian Mulligan*

If you are interested in finding out more about bell ringing, you would be very welcome to our regular Monday evening practices. They are well-attended and we have been focusing on change ringing methods, including Grandsire. We revisit more familiar methods regularly, such as Cross and Queens and continue to focus on improving our treble bell hunting skills!

If it sounds interesting, please get in touch by email to [newtonottagebellringers@gmail.com](mailto:newtonottagebellringers@gmail.com) or come along to our next practice on Monday evenings from 7:45pm to 9pm.

St John the Baptist Church, Church Street, Newton CF36 5PD

## St Johns Summer Fayre 2025

*Jonathan and Karen Lewis*

The date for the Summer Fayre is set for Saturday 5th July and we're looking forward to seeing everyone on Newton Green.

If you have bric-a-brac or books, please leave them in Newton School-room or call us on 07741 252869. We're also looking for volunteers to help on the day - again, please contact us if you would like to help.

See you soon!





## News from St John's

*Diane Jackson*

Lent is again upon us. There was disappointment that an Ash Wednesday Service was not held in our church. Whilst services were held in both All Saints and St David's, for various reasons some of us were unable to attend these services.

Looking ahead to Easter, we will again be collecting for Easter lilies. If you wish to contribute towards the cost of the lilies, either in memory of a loved one or because you would like to contribute towards the decoration of the church, a suggested price is for £5 per lily. However all and any donation would be gratefully received. Envelopes are already in the church/porch.

The date of this year's Summer Fayre has been set for Saturday 5th July. As always, we are most grateful for donations towards the various stalls. In addition to cakes, raffle prizes and items for the tombola, handbags and toys would also be gratefully received.

Now for the latest update on the boiler. All is now in place and should have been completed on Wednesday 19th March. The latest problem is the company carrying out the work threw out a vital piece of equipment into the scrap metal!! To order one would take months so they were going to make one and promised that it would be done by Wednesday. This obviously has not happened - at least not yet. Keep watching this space. So frustrating for Fr Wayne who has given so much time to this, in addition to his other church duties of which there are many.

Finally regarding the window, work is shortly to start but is going to take approximately 3 months. In addition, they have found cracks in some of the other windows which will be repaired at the same time. Over £1000 was raised from the Just Giving appeal to cover the cost of the insurance excess of £500. The money left over from this will go towards the cost of the repairs of the other windows.

By the time the next magazine is out, Easter will have gone, so every blessing of this very Holy time to you and your loved ones.

# Holy Week & East

## Palm Sunday

All services today include the Blessing of Palms

- 08.00 - Said Mass - **All Saints Church**, Porthcawl (CF36 3HD)
- 08.30 - Said Mass - **St John's Church**, Newton (CF36 5PD)
- 08.30 - Said Mass - **Margam Abbey** (SA13 2TA)
- 09.30 - Sung Mass - **St David's Church**, Nottage (CF36 3PF)
- 10.00 - Sung Mass - **All Saints Church**, Porthcawl
- 10.00 - Sung Eucharist - **St Theodore's Church**, Kenfig Hill (CF33 6DU)
- 11.00 - Sung Mass - **St John's Church**, Newton
- 11.15 - Sung Mass - **Margam Abbey**
- 17.00 - Said Mass - **St David's Church**, Nottage
- 18.00 - Evensong - **St John's Church**, Newton
- 18.00 - Margam Calling - The King on a Donkey (Matthew 21:1-11 - Preparing for Holy Week as we recognise Jesus as the humble King) - **St Theodore's Church**, Kenfig Hill

## Holy Monday

- 11.00 - Chrism Mass - **Llandaff Cathedral**, Cardiff (CF5 2LA)
- 19.00 - Ministry Area Service, Evensong - **St James' Church**, Pyle (CF33 6HR)

## Holy Tuesday

- 10.30 - Said Mass - **St John's Church**, Newton
- 14.00 - Mothers' Union Eucharist - **St Mary Magdalene Church**, Mawdlam (CF33 4PH)
- 19.00 - Ministry Area Said Mass - **St Theodore's Church**, Kenfig Hill

## Holy Wednesday

- 10.00 - Said Mass - **Margam Abbey**
- 10.00 - Said Eucharist - **St Theodore's Church**, Kenfig Hill
- 10.00 - Holy Communion - **St James' Church**, Pyle
- 11.00 - Said Mass - **All Saints Church**, Porthcawl
- 11.00 - Holy Communion - **St Mary Magdalene Church**, Mawdlam
- 19.00 - Ministry Area Said Mass - **St David's Church**, Nottage



# ter Services 2025

## Maundy Thursday

- 10.30 - Said Mass and stripping of the altar -  
**St David's Church, Nottage**
- 12.00 - Stations of the Cross - **Margam Abbey**
- 16.00 - Holy Communion, stripping of the altar and Vigil -  
**St James' Church, Pyle**
- 19.00 - Mass of the Last Supper and stripping of the altar -  
**St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill**
- 19.00 - Holy Communion, stripping of the altar and Vigil - **St Mary  
Magdalene Church, Mawdlam**
- 20.00 - Mass of the Lord's Supper, stripping of the altar & Vigil -  
**All Saints Church, Porthcawl**

## Good Friday

- 09.30 - Family Stations of the Cross - **St David's Church, Nottage**
- 10.00 - Walk of witness from Kenfig Hill to Pyle Church Hall -  
meeting at Heathbridge Surgery (CF33 6BY)
- 12.00 - Litany of the Cross - **St John's Church, Newton**
- 12.00 - Good Friday Liturgy - **Margam Abbey**
- 13.00 - Holy Hour - **St Mary Magdalene Church, Mawdlam**
- 14.00 - Good Friday Liturgy - **St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill**
- 14.00 - Holy Hour - **St James' Church, Pyle**
- 19.00 - Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday - **All Saints Church, Porthcawl**

## Holy Saturday

- 09.00 - Morning Prayer - **St John's Church, Newton**
- 14.00 - Holy Week Family Service - **All Saints Church, Porthcawl**
- 19.30 - Easter Vigil - **All Saints Church, Porthcawl**
- 19.30 - Easter Vigil - **Margam Abbey**



## **Holy Week & Easter Services 2025** continued

### **Easter Sunday**

- 08.00 - Said Mass - **All Saints Church**, Porthcawl
- 08.30 - Said Mass - **St John's Church**, Newton
- 08.30 - Said Mass - **Margam Abbey**
- 09.30 - Sung Mass - **St David's Church**, Nottage
- 09.30 - Holy Communion - **St Mary Magdalene Church**, Mawdlam
- 10.00 - Sung Mass - **All Saints Church**, Porthcawl
- 10.00 - Sung Eucharist & Blessing of the Easter Garden -  
**St Theodore's Church**, Kenfig Hill
- 11.00 - Sung Mass - **St John's Church**, Newton
- 11.00 - Holy Communion - **St James' Church**, Pyle
- 11.15 - Sung Mass & Blessing of the Easter Garden - **Margam Abbey**
- 15.00 - Easter Eucharist - **St Mary's Church**, Trecco
- 16.00 - Sung Evensong led by Mothers' Union - **St Mary Magdalene Church**, Mawdlam
- 17.00 - Said Mass - **St David's Church**, Nottage
- 18.00 - Evensong - **St John's Church**, Newton

### **Easter Monday**

- 12.00 - Said Eucharist - **St Theodore's Church**, Kenfig Hill

### **Sunday 27th April - Easter 1**

- 10.30 - Ministry Area Mass, followed by Annual Vestry Meeting -  
**All Saints Church**, Porthcawl



## The Other Mary

*by Revd Canon David Winter*

The Easter story in the gospels is full of wonderful cameos. Among them, one stands out for me for sheer emotional power and deep insight. It's the story of Mary Magdalene.

Jesus had rescued her from a life of depravity - 'seven devils' is the Bible's phrase. For this she repaid Him with the most powerful adoration and love. She stood beside His mother, the 'other' Mary, at the foot of the cross as Jesus was crucified.

On the Sunday morning she went with other women disciples to the tomb to anoint His body. When they arrived they found the tomb was empty. They were told, by someone they took to be an angel, that Jesus of Nazareth wasn't there because He had 'risen'.

The other women left, but a distraught Mary waited outside the tomb, weeping. A man appeared, whom she took to be the gardener. 'Why are you weeping?' He asked. 'What are you looking for?' 'They have taken away my Lord,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have laid Him'.

The man then spoke one word, which changed her life for ever.

'Mary', He said, using the familiar form of her name.

'Teacher!' she cried, and made to embrace Him.

'Don't touch me,' He said. 'I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go and tell the others'.

She did, and became the first person after the resurrection to say, 'I have seen the Lord'.

She would see Him again, of course, in the upper room with the other disciples, but then never again on earth, until she saw Him in His ascended glory, not as the carpenter's son but as the Son of God.

It really is some story.

*Canon David Winter is a retired cleric in the diocese of Oxford, and a former head of religious broadcasting at the BBC.*



## News from Margam Abbey

*Bev Gulley*

In March, we commenced 'Stations of the Cross' (with Mother Bev Reaney) followed by Lenten Lunch, (weekly for 6 weeks), had an enjoyable quiz (Quiz Master Ralph David) assisted by Steve Fidler, hosted group visits and had successful, well-attended talks with Bev, Pam and Gareth. Following the success of last year, we again welcomed undergraduates from Swansea University with Dr Alex Langland, who all enjoyed the Abbey and Stones Museum. Our Choir under the leadership of Nigel Wills is certainly raising the spirits at Mass. Rehearsal is Sunday at 9.30am. New members are welcome. The St David's Day Mass, was lovely. Thank you to our own Ed Jones for playing the trumpet. It certainly gave us some hwy!! March saw the baptisms and welcoming into God's family of Jay, Elsie, Daphne and Anabelle.

Lent will soon become Easter when we look forward as ever to Holy Week:

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Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday/Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> midday – Stations of the Cross. 7pm Maundy Thursday Service/Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Liturgy of the Cross at midday/Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Easter Vigil 7.30pm/Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday.

April:

There are several group visits to the Abbey, and Declarations Ceremonies for the Master of The Worshipful Livery Company of Wales and the High Sheriff of West Glamorgan, plus the wonderful to watch, service of the 'Knights Templar'.

At the Abbey however, there is no post Holy Week respite; as opening daily (less Monday) we are only just getting going for the summer season! There are so few volunteers now, to help to keep the Abbey and Gift shop open, that any new volunteers are most welcome.

Meeting people and having time to chat, extending traditional mission and ministry, is one of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering with us.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April until the end of September, the Stones Museum will open on Wednesday, weekends and Bank Holidays, 10am until 3pm.

Our Mothers' Union goes from strength to strength. The April meeting is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm (instead of the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday); the talk on fraud prevention.

Forthcoming events include:

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 1pm – Messy Church with Easter themed craft and garden. All welcome.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> – Prayers for Peace Pilgrimage to Capel Mair, starts outside the Abbey at 10.30am (tbc).

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> - Annual Vestry Meeting at All Saints Porthcawl (no 11.15am Mass at the Abbey).

Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> 11am – Talk on 'The Life and Legacy of Christopher Rice Mansel Talbot'.

Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> 11am – Talk on 'The Monks of Margam'.

The 'Trails and Tales' tour around the graveyard will be announced with only one week notice, to ensure the safety of the walk (we need dry under foot). Contact Bev, 07530 421220 or follow us on Facebook



## Is chocolate good for us?

Easter is a chance for many of us to indulge in a feast of chocolate! On average, each of us consumes 8.1 kg of it a year!

Certainly it makes us feel better. Some scientists believe that this is due to the chemicals in it that trigger the release of endorphins, similar to those we produce naturally when we fall in love.

But nutritionists warn against using chocolate as a pick-me-up, especially in the evening. If eaten before bedtime it can cause blood glucose levels to plummet in the night and this disrupts your sleep. If eaten in quantity during the day, it can lead to mood and energy swings, weight gain and poor immunity.

Occasionally it can provide medical benefits. Chocolate containing 60% more cocoa solids is rich in essential trace elements and nutrients such as iron, calcium and potassium, and many vitamins. It also has the highest natural source of magnesium.

So enjoy your Easter Eggs, but, as they say, everything in moderation!

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## In Praise of Penarth

*Adrian Warner*

There are numerous opportunities for Praise in Penarth. Every denomination is here, and the religious buildings are wonderful too. All Saints is in the trees of Victoria Square, St Augustine's stands out on the high ridge and is visible from afar. St. Dochdwy's stands out likewise, but the monthly 'picnic' service there is truly unique. Numerous chapels and meeting rooms give a vast choice for the residents and visitors, and all of them give warm welcomes. I know this because (World) Unity being my aspiration I join in with them all. The town deserves much praise too. Shops for every need, and watering holes for every thirst, bus routes and the train station, the library, Paget Rooms, Turner Gallery and the leisure centre all providing great services.

Tennis and bowls and there are almost infinite opportunities for scenic walks. Being by the sea adds so much. The ever popular pier (with a plaque to 21 year old Kathleen who swam across to Weston super Mare in September 1927), and nearby Italianate Gardens. The Kymin and the Alexandria Gardens (with War Memorial) link the prom up the hillside to the town.

On clear days the two bridges across the Severn are visible 21 miles away, with the Flat Holm and Steep Holm islands nearer. Marconi achieved here. The Bay Barrage provides a superb walk into Cardiff, passing the Penarth marina. Cosmeston Lakes country park is outstanding.

The history of Penarth is intriguing, and many books expound this. Penarth deserves to be praised! Surely a place to visit soon .

### **A little light relief**

Are there hymns which match people and occupations? How about these:

Be Thou my guardian and my guide  
Guide me o Thou great Redeemer  
For the beauty of the earth  
Fight the good fight

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Miss World Competitor  
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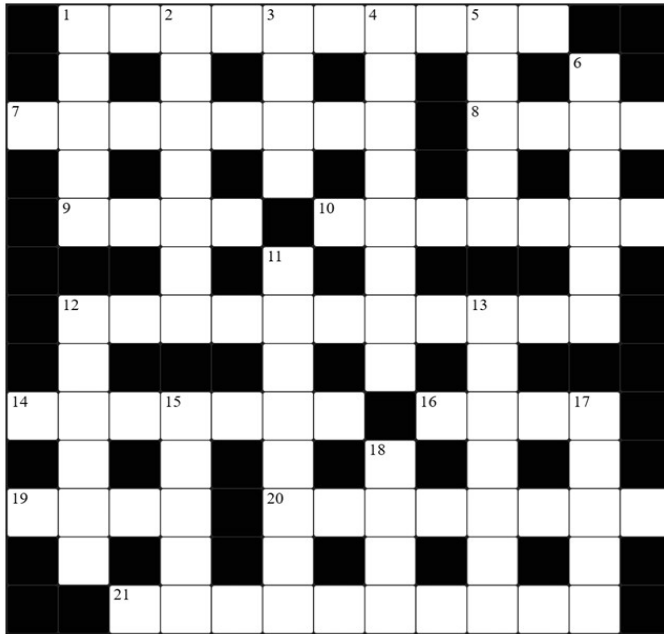
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# Quick Crossword



## Across

- 1 Destitute (4,3,3)
- 7 Severe headache (8)
- 8 Head-cook (4)
- 9 Yellow part of an egg (4)
- 10 Stuck (7)
- 12 Everlastingly (11)
- 14 Story in three parts (7)
- 16 Moist (4)
- 19 Burial place (4)
- 20 London airport (8)
- 21 Early bird song (4,6)

## Down

- 1 Place where butter and cheese are made (5)
- 2 Songbird (7)
- 3 Continent (4)
- 4 Awful (8)
- 5 Male relative (5)
- 6 Cure (6)
- 11 Extend (8)
- 12 Talking bird (6)
- 13 Shoe material (7)
- 15 Seventh sign of the Zodiac (5)
- 17 Devout (5)
- 18 Vow (4)

**Quick Crossword Answer** (page29)



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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

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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

### Happy Easter Cake

The ingredients you will need are:-

4oz of Hope	12oz of Blessings
6oz of Joy	16oz of Inspiration
8oz of Gratitude	10oz of Celebrations
2 eggs and a Prayer	

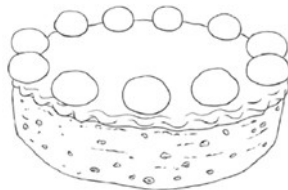
Mix with Confidence.

Then bake with Faith until the cake has Risen.

When cool, decorate with Happiness  
and surround with Love.

Serve for a very Happy Easter.

*Submitted a little while ago by Sue Evans  
in a delightful letter in which she reminisces about attending International  
Cookery classes run by Ann Browning.*



## 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 Margam Abbey</b>	Mrs Margaret Phillips	07748 678827
	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>	Amanda Church	07534 973557
<b>Margam Abbey Hall</b>	Bev Gulley	07530 421220
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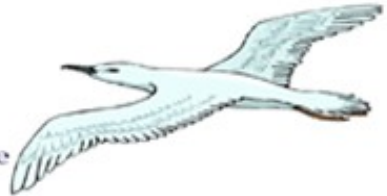
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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