



Margam

Ministry Area Magazine



November 2024



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Reflections and Remembrances

It's a good job I like jigsaws because this month's magazine has been just that. Thank you so much for all the amazing articles - it's certainly kept me quiet piecing it all together!

A big thank you to all our contributors - it's such a pleasure to include articles from across the Ministry Area and it's always exciting to see what comes in! I'd particularly like to thank Margaret Griffiths from St Theodore's for her ongoing support. Margaret, your articles have been so upbeat and varied, and it's been a delight to find out more about the Kenfig Hill area, past and present. Thank you, we wish you well and look forward to a new voice from St Theodore's.

I'm sure, like me, you're looking forward to your local Remembrance Service this month. Being able to share those moments together and remember loved ones who have died and those who sacrificed their lives to ensure our freedom is very special. This year is perhaps even more poignant with so much unrest in the world.

Christmas is just around the corner and I'm sure the December issue will be packed. Let me have your announcements, news, stories and photos by 20th November - we don't want to be late for Christmas!

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: Cheque presentation to Fr Wayne by Jonathan Lewis, Chairman St John's Summer Fayre Committee, for monies raised at this year's Summer Fayre

Keep up with Ministry Area news and updates:

On the website: 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 and www.facebook.com/MargamCalling

Dear Friends,

Fr. Jonathan

As we arrive in November we are once again caught up in the season of 'Remembrance.' Beginning with All Saints Day, followed quickly by All Souls Day, then Remembrance Sunday and Armistice!

Reminisce, Remember, Recall, Recollect, Remind, all have the prefix 're'. When we use 're', we mean again, or even again and again. In short, repetition – another 're' word.

The second Sunday in November is Remembrance Sunday when we will witness whole communities gathering to recall, remember, reminisce, recollect and are reminded of conflicts and war, where men, women, children and animals lost their lives or had them significantly changed.

If we look carefully, we will find we have symbols of the service and sacrifice of others all around us – poppies, war memorials, old letters, medals and Remembrance season are all ways to recall what our family, friends and those unknown to us have been through. It is right to remember those who have gone before us; we do that all the time. It is good to pause, to gather our thoughts, to gather as a community, to recall, reflect and be reminded of events that drastically changed lives and communities. We may not have a personal memory to connect us to war or conflict, but we can still feel emotionally involved in the story of those who were there as we remember again.

In the book of Joshua (4:4-7), Joshua asks representatives of the tribes of Israel to place stones as a lasting memorial. This passage speaks powerfully of what Remembrance is about... to tell a story.

The war memorials we stand in front of at this time of year are not just stone or wooden memorials with a list of names, but they are places which tell stories. Such stories which speak of sacrifices made and of freedoms won and lost. This is why we should always look to discover the stories behind those names – to read and to research. That is also why it is so important that with the passing of the generations those stories are passed on; so that the peace which we enjoy today is not only commemorated, but celebrated.

Sadly, war continues to rage in other parts of our world today, so as

we look at the dark and broken world around us, may we place our hope in God, using the prayer of the Late Archbishop Desmond Tutu:

“Good is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. Victory is ours, through him who loves us.”

And empower us to face the challenges, in the midst of the many tribulations in our world that can cause hatred and division, to make our lives ones that promote goodness and love, life and light. Amen.

*With love and prayers,
Fr. Jonathan*

The graphic is a vibrant collage of promotional materials for the Margam Ministry Area. At the top, the title "Jam and Jerusalem" is written in large, bold, red letters. Below it, in green, is "Margam Ministry Area Jam's and Chutney's" and in red, "Ideal for Christmas". The background is a light yellow with abstract, colorful shapes. In the center, there is a collage of several church cards, each featuring a different church building and the text "MARGAM MINISTRY AREA". One card prominently displays a QR code. In the bottom left corner, a grey box contains the text "ALL Jam's & Chutney's are £3.50". In the bottom right corner, there is a red and green banner that says "Jam and Jerusalem" and "Take a jam journey through our Ministry Area and discover our churches and what to do at them". The banner also includes the Margam Ministry Area logo and the website "www.margam.org.uk".

Dear Friends,

Rev Dr Duncan Walker

All Saints Day, celebrated on November 1st, is a special time in the Christian calendar dedicated to honouring and remembering all the saints - both known and unknown - who have lived exemplary lives of faith, courage, and devotion to God. This day offers a moment to reflect on their lives, draw inspiration from their journeys, and consider the call to sainthood in our own lives. Through scripture, we can gain deeper insights into the significance of All Saints Day and the profound legacy of those who have gone before us.

The Great Cloud of Witnesses: Hebrews 12:1-2 offers a powerful image of the saints as a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounding us. This passage reminds us that the saints are not distant figures but are present with us, cheering us on in our journey of faith. Their lives serve as testimonies to God's grace and power, encouraging us to remain steadfast in our pursuit of holiness.

The Bible is replete with stories of men and women who exemplified deep faith and unwavering commitment to God. Hebrews 11, often referred to as the "Hall of Faith," recounts the stories of many such individuals. From Abel to Noah, Abraham to Moses, and Rahab to David, these saints demonstrated extraordinary faith in the face of challenges and uncertainties.

Consider the story of Abraham, who "by faith...obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8). His willingness to trust God, even when the path was unclear, is a powerful lesson for us today. Similarly, the faith of Moses, who "chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:25), reminds us of the importance of standing firm in our faith, even when it requires sacrifice.

In Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus delivers the Beatitudes, a series of blessings that highlight the characteristics of those who are considered blessed in the Kingdom of God. These traits—humility, mercy, purity of heart, and a hunger for righteousness—are reflective of the lives of the saints.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3) speaks to the humility and dependence on God that characterized the saints. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6) points to their unwavering commitment to justice and holiness. As we celebrate All Saints Day, the Beatitudes serve as a reminder of the qualities we should strive for in our own lives.

1 Peter 1:15-16 calls us to a life of holiness: "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" The saints are examples of this call to holiness. Their lives were marked by a profound dedication to God and a desire to reflect His holiness in all they did.

Holiness is not about perfection but about a continual striving to live according to God's will. It involves daily acts of love, compassion, and service. The saints, through their lives of prayer, selflessness, and dedication, exemplify what it means to live a holy life. On All Saints Day, we are reminded of this call to holiness and encouraged to pursue it with renewed vigour.

One of the comforting aspects of All Saints Day is the belief in the intercession of the saints. Revelation 8:3-4 gives us a glimpse of the heavenly realm, where the prayers of the saints are offered before God: "Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand."

The saints, who have gone before us, continue to intercede on our behalf. Their prayers join with ours, creating a powerful chorus before the throne of God. This belief offers solace and encouragement, knowing that we are supported by a heavenly community that cares for us and lifts us up in prayer.

All Saints Day is not only about remembering those who have gone before us but also about recognizing our call to live as saints in the present day. Ephesians 4:1-3 urges us to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be

patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

We are called to embody the same virtues and dedication as the saints. This means living lives of integrity, compassion, and service. It means standing up for justice, caring for the marginalized, and spreading the love of Christ wherever we go. As we celebrate All Saints Day, let us recommit ourselves to this high calling and strive to be living examples of God's grace and love.

All Saints Day is a time to reflect on the lives of those who have gone before us, to draw inspiration from their faith and dedication, and to renew our own commitment to living as saints. Through scripture, we gain a deeper understanding of the significance of this day and the legacy of the saints.

As we remember the great cloud of witnesses, let us be encouraged to run our race with perseverance, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Let us strive for holiness, embody the virtues of the Beatitudes, and live lives of compassion and service. And let us find comfort in the intercession of the saints, knowing that we are supported by a heavenly community that prays for us and lifts us up before God.

May All Saints Day be a time of reflection, inspiration, and renewed dedication to living out our faith with the same fervour and devotion as the saints who have gone before us. Amen.

*With Christian Greetings,
Duncan*

“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.

We're all called to share the Good News

Tony Harris

This week in our study group we are looking at St Paul's letter to the Romans, chapters 9 to 11. Chapter 10 particularly highlights our responsibility as individuals to spread the Good News, through outward facing mission. In chapter 10, St Paul writes ¹³for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" and later, in verse 15, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

I enjoyed and was very much encouraged by Rev. Wayne's sermon in All Saints last Sunday (Trinity 21), which focussed largely on the same topic. He mentioned that the Ministry Area will shortly be advertising for a new member of the clergy team, in the role of Priest Missioner. Whilst I'm sure that that doesn't imply that the rest of the clergy team can put their *beautiful* feet up, it does emphasise that spreading the good news of salvation through Christ and building up our church is our primary duty. The need to be active in outward facing mission as individuals was the key theme of Rev. Wayne's message. He highlighted that, when Jesus brought together the disciples, none of them were religious leaders or trained theologians – they were ordinary people, like you and me. But Jesus chose them to be the core group that would build his church after his death on the cross, despite their humble backgrounds and many personal flaws.

I have no idea when the appointment process will formally begin or how long it will last. However, I have long been an advocate of the contribution that lay people can and must make to the growth of a healthy church family. As such, I look forward to working alongside someone whose mission is Mission.

Every blessing,

Tony

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

News from All Saints

Pam Rossini



Last night I watched The Pride of Britain Awards. The heroes of the night had been brave, selfless, courageous and inspirational. The first young lady to achieve this award was Florrie Bank. As a six-year-old she was diagnosed with acute leukaemia. She was treated, and overcame the cancer, but the treatment left her needing a lung transplant. She is currently on the list and will shortly be expecting her new lung. This young lady, using TikTok as her channel, is helping other cancer sufferers to be less frightened with her cheerful, happy disposition and is making a difference to children who need that help to overcome the fear of cancer. This little girl truly deserved this award and is brave, selfless and an inspiration.

Another young man, 10-year-old Jacob Newson, has raised £150,000 in memory of his mum who died when he was seven. He completed many challenges through his own determination and has been able to donate this money to the hospice where his mum died. He will carry on running, walking, or doing whatever it takes to keep raising money. An admirable young man.

Now a young Gurkha soldier fighting in Afghanistan lost both his legs above the knee when he was blown up on manoeuvres. This soldier with his artificial legs has as a double amputee been the first person to climb Everest. His name is Hari Budha Hagar. He is now 45 and says he wants to change the perception of disability and encourages people to climb their own mountain. This young Gurkha has determination, courage and truly will inspire others.

Several other brave people received awards, including Hewitt Clark, the most highly decorated living lifeboatman, a man who with no thought of the danger has saved hundreds of lives. His courage and selflessness deserve the many awards he has achieved.

These few that I have written about are outstanding, amazing people – true heroes. You may have a hero in your life, someone who does that extra kind gesture, maybe a neighbour who will take in a Sunday dinner for an invalid old lady, or will spend half an hour chatting on the phone to cheer her and make her day. Many of our churchgoers

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are also carers, caring for their dear ones, sometimes in difficult circumstances. These are heroes, selflessly putting their lives on hold for someone else.

I have a hero in my life. She is quiet, patient, uncomplaining, and will always be there for her mum. No-one can prepare you for what lies ahead but sometimes these challenges throw up a hero and this young lady is a hero, not one you will see on TV but a very special member of the human race.

There are some excellent concerts in November – The Savoyards always entertaining and Roger Hudd with his orchestra performing excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan – all to be recommended.

An alert for those who come to All Saints - we are looking for readers or intercessors! If you are interested or want to know more, please speak to Helen Owen.

Please pray for the sick and dying, so many need our prayers. Pray too for our new Mayor in the hope that he'll do his best for our town.

Newton Nottage Mothers' Union

Judith Shawe



What a great afternoon we had at Croeso Tea last time.

We were royally entertained by Catherine Mayor and Karen Hnyda before the tea. Catherine is an accomplished flautist and Karen accompanied with skill. The afternoon made in excess of £500 which has gone to the Cystic fibrosis charity. The cake was up to its usual high standard and an enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Christmas Croeso is on Saturday 21 December when you can sing your favourite carols before tea. Come and Sing Christmas Carols!

Congratulations to Joyce Bowen who celebrates her 100th birthday in November. Joyce has been an MU member for many years. Love from us all.

A busy time ahead - the next meeting is on Tuesday, 5th November at 2pm in All Saints Hall, with guest speaker Nicola Roylance, Deaf Communications Officer from Llandaff. Everyone is welcome.

Corporate Communion is on Wednesday 27th November at 11am in All Saints and Prayer Group is on Tuesday, 12th November at 2pm in the Lady Chapel, All Saints. Everyone is most welcome.

Look out for details of Christmas Croeso with Come and Sing Christmas Carols and also for info on the Crib Service!

Calling all young musicians!



Share your gift of song or mastery of a musical instrument and perform live at the annual Rotary Young Musicians competition.

All Saints on Saturday 16th November at 2pm

Details from Judith Shawe: 07872 482827 or judithshawe@hotmail.co.uk

News from St David's

Pat Parry



We have recently celebrated Harvest Festival. Gifts of food will be given to the foodbank which we now donate to regularly. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion thanks to the flower arrangers. On the Friday evening before the Service, we enjoyed a fish and chip supper in the hall with wonderful apple pie or lemon meringue pie with cream for desert and coffee to follow. Thank you to Carolyn for organising it and to Jeff for the quiz. The proceeds from the raffle were given to the flower fund and the rest of the profit to Christian Aid. We all had a good time.

It reminds me of Harvest in the old church when my boys were in Sunday school in the seventies. The church would be full for the family service and the children would bring up garden produce to place in front of the altar including overgrown massive marrows. There would also be flowers and a harvest loaf. We always sang "We plough the fields and scatter". The flowers would be taken to the elderly housebound.

On a more sober note, our faithful member Jennifer Baker died in September. She had moved to the Masonic care home from Nottage about a month previously because of a decline in her health and died peacefully in the Princess of Wales hospital. There was a large funeral in All Saints Church and many members of St David's attended. Our sympathy is extended to her daughters, Emma and Nicola, and their families. They requested donations in her memory to be divided between '2Wish' and St David's church.

Congratulations to Gill Williams who celebrated her 90th birthday recently with her family. We joined her in cake and wine the following week after church.

Concerts in All Saints Church in December

Friday 6th December - Broadway Singers Christmas Concert. Details to follow.

Saturday 14th December at 7pm - Bro Ogwr with children from Oldcastle Primary School. Tickets £12 at the door.

News from St John's

Diane Jackson



The clocks have gone back and the days are getting shorter, which means that Evensong will be at an earlier time.

October saw us celebrate Harvest. As always the church was decorated by the ladies of the Flower Guild. They have always put on a wonderful display, but this year they excelled themselves. Fr Wayne said he had never seen a church so beautifully decorated for Harvest! Thank you so much Sandra and all your wonderful team.

Harvest Sunday, unusually for St John's, saw us celebrate with a lunch actually on Harvest Sunday! Much time and effort has to go into this to make it happen. Thank you Janice and your team for all your hard work, it was appreciated by all who attended. As part of the profits made, the Flower Guild were delighted to receive £103 as a donation. Donations are few these days, so this was especially welcomed. Thank you Janice for thinking of them .

This year also, following a visit during the Open Church week, St Claire's younger school chose to come to church so they too could celebrate Harvest. 60 pupils with 10 of their teachers came and also brought gifts for the Food bank. It was a success and hopefully will be repeated when we have other church Festivals.

Following David Philpot stepping down, Peter Henry very kindly took on some of his tasks, but he has now decided it is time for him to also step down. Thank you Peter for all that you have done.

We were all very sad to hear that Meryl Evans has passed away. Meryl with her husband Neville were regulars at the 11am service for very many years. Following Nev's death, Meryl still came to church, but having had a fall just before lockdown, Meryl sadly never returned home. Our deepest sympathy goes to Huw and Caren.

All Souls Day and Remembrance Sunday will soon be with us. Both are very poignant times when we remember those we have loved or did not know but who are sadly no longer here.

Looking towards December, as is our tradition, we will be holding our very special Christmas Coffee Morning on Friday 6th December after

the 10.30am service. Entrance fee will be £2 per person, to include a mince pie and glass of sherry. In addition there will be a bumper raffle with all proceeds as usual to church funds. I understand there will be a Christmas Lunch on Sunday 8th December. More details will be in the weekly sheet, so make a note of the dates in your diary!

St John's Summer Fayre

A cheque for £8322.30 was presented to Fr Wayne by Summer Fayre Committee Chairman, Jonathan Lewis, in respect of the money raised at this year's Fayre. Jonathan thanked everyone for their tremendous support saying that it really is a community event.

St Claire's Harvest Festival

Liz Singer

One of the most pleasing aspects of the Churches Unlocked Festival was the number of children that attended. Porthcawl Primary School nursery came each with a parent or carer. Beverley Smithen met them, pointed out areas of interest, played her guitar and sang to them. Three groups from St Claire's Prep School were welcomed by Robbie Owen. A short quiz was prepared by Amanda Davies and the children enjoyed finding the clues and checking the answers with Robbie. All the groups enjoyed squash and biscuits in the schoolroom afterwards. There was a special 'out of hours' opening for Newton Brownies. The girls were shown that the porch was once the school and in twos they preached from the pulpit! Another fascination was the font.

We had enthusiastic feedback and St Claire's expressed a desire to make more use of the church at Festival times such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter with the children being involved. With Father Wayne's agreement, we contacted St Claire's and as a result a short Harvest Festival service took place in St John's on the afternoon of Friday 4th October.

The children read the lessons, said the prayers and Fr. Wayne told a story. Their songs were very well rehearsed. They bought gifts for the Food Pantry which were laid by the altar. It was so special to see so many children in church.

I fell down the stairs

Sian Jones

I fell down the stairs on Thursday
From top to bottom I fell!
When I hit the floor in the hallway
I really did not feel so well.

I'd got up in the night for some water
I know some may not find this true
But really, I do drink other things
That are not alcohol brewed

Anyway, after 5 or so minutes
I tried to stand up on the floor
Cos falling downstairs is much harder
When your 64 and not 4

When I got up, I went to the kitchen
Glass of water, no! not now for me
The shock and the way I was feeling
Meant I must have a G n T

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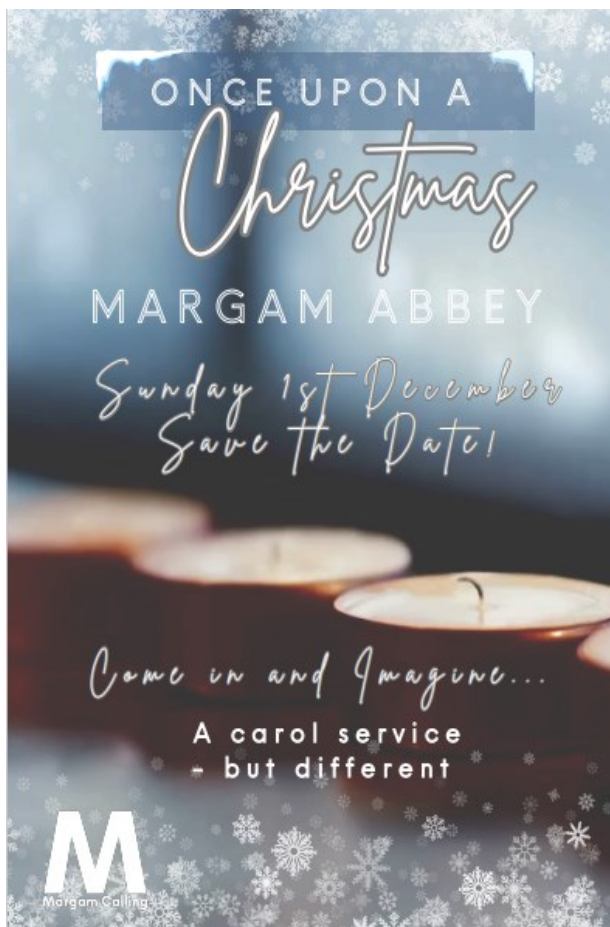
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Services & Events for Advent and Christmas 2024

The following are in addition to the usual weekday and Sunday services.

Sunday 1st December, Advent 1:

- 4pm: Mothers' Union Evensong,
ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM
- 4pm: Margam Calling Christmas Service
'Once Upon a Christmas', MARGAM ABBEY
- 6pm: Darkness to Light Service,
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON

Services & Events for Advent and Christmas 2024

Tuesday 3rd December:

11am: Probus Carol Service, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

Friday 6th December:

10am: Mynydd Cynffig Primary School Carol Service,
ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

2pm: O Come Let Us Adore Him, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

Saturday 7th December:

1pm: Messy Church, MARGAM ABBEY

6pm: Carol Service, ST MARY'S, TRECCO

Sunday 8th December, Advent 2:

4pm: The Alpha Christmas, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

Tuesday 10th December:

2pm: Mothers' Union Nine Lessons & Carols, ST JAMES, PYLE

Wednesday 11th December:

6pm: Carol Service, ST MARY'S, TRECCO

7pm: RNLI Carol Service, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL

Thursday 12th December:

11am: Carols for Millicent at ASDA, Pyle for MacMillan

7pm: Porthcawl Comprehensive School Carol Service,
ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL

Friday 13th December:

10.30am: Christmas Coffee Morning & Raffle Draw,
PYLE CHURCH HALL



Saturday 14th December:

2pm: Christingle Service, MARGAM ABBEY

Christingle making in the Hall followed by service at 3pm

2pm: 'Sing Carols Together', ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON

6pm: Carol Service, ST MARY'S, TRECCO

Sunday 15th December, Advent 3:

3pm: Community Carol Service, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

4pm: Nine Lessons & Carols, ST JAMES, PYLE

5pm: Nine Lessons & Carols, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

**Tuesday 17th December:**

- 10am, Pyle School at ST JAMES, PYLE
- 1.30pm: Christingle Service with Afon-y-Felin and Cornelly Juniors, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM
- 7pm: Cynffig Comprehensive School Christmas Carol Concert, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

Wednesday 18th December:

- Pyle Juniors at ST JAMES, PYLE
- Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger at ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM
- 6pm: Carol Service, ST MARY'S, TRECCO

Friday 20th December:

- 7pm: O Holy Night - 'Cantorion Pentalar' Christmas Concert, Tickets £20, MARGAM ABBEY

Saturday 21st December:

- 11am: Breakfast Club Christingle, PYLE CHURCH HALL
- 2pm: 'Come & Sing Christmas Carols' Croeso tea, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL
- 4pm: Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight, MARGAM ABBEY
- 6pm: Carol Service, ST MARY'S, TRECCO

Sunday 22th December, Advent 4:

- 3pm: Guide & Scout Carol Service, ST DAVID'S, NOTTAGE
- 4pm: Christingle Service, ST JAMES, PYLE
- 5pm: Christingle Service, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve:

- 11am: Crib Service, ST DAVID'S, NOTTAGE
- 3pm: Crib Service, MARGAM ABBEY
- 4pm: Family Crib Service, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL
- 5pm: Blessing of the Crib & Christmas Communion, ST JAMES, PYLE
- 6pm: Blessing of the Crib & Christmas Communion, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM
- 6pm: Nine Lessons & Carols Service, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON
- 11pm: Midnight Mass, MARGAM ABBEY
- 11pm: Midnight Mass, with Blessing of the Crib, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL
- 11pm: First Mass of Christmas, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL



Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day:

- 8am: Said Mass for Christmas Day,
ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL
- 8.30am: Said Mass for Christmas Day,
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON
- 8.30am: Said Mass, MARGAM ABBEY
- 9.30am: Sung Mass for Christmas Day, ST DAVID'S, NOTTAGE
- 9.30am: Sung Communion, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM
- 10am: Sung Mass for Christmas Day, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL
- 10am: Christmas Day Eucharist, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL
- 11am, Sung Communion, ST JAMES, PYLE
- 11.15am: Sung Mass for Christmas Day,
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON

Thursday 26th December:

- 10.30am: Said Mass for St Stephen, ST DAVID'S, NOTTAGE
- 12noon: Said Eucharist for the Feast of St Stephen,
ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

Friday 27th December:

- 10.30am: Said Mass for St John the Evangelist,
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON

Saturday 28th December:

- 6pm: Organ Concert William Reynolds, MARGAM ABBEY (tbc)

Sunday 29th December, Christmas 1:

- 8am: Said Mass, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL
- 8.30am: Said Mass, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON
- 10.30am, Ministry Area Joint Sung Mass, MARGAM ABBEY
- 4pm: Sung Holy Communion, ST JAMES, PYLE

Tuesday 31st December, New Year's Eve:

- 11.15pm: Bellsingers Watchnight Service,
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON

Wednesday 1st January 2025, New Year's Day:

- 12pm: Said Eucharist for the Naming of Jesus,
ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL



WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Friday 29th November

7pm

St David's Church Hall

£40 per ticket
to include light refreshments

Please contact
Catherine Powell
on 07885 834740

The Posada

Las Posadas is a traditional Christmas celebration that originated in Mexico. The word *posada* means 'inn' or 'shelter' in Spanish and is a celebration of the Christmas story. Taking place during December, the posada commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus.



The Posada in Porthcawl starts at All Saints on December 1 (Advent Sunday) where it is blessed and given to the 1st host. It comprises Mary, Joseph and the donkey being welcomed into houses across the Porthcawl area. They stay a night before moving on.

If you would like to welcome the (knitted) Holy Family into your home, a list of dates for hosting will be available at the Croeso Tea on Saturday, 2nd November and in the 3 Porthcawl churches during November. Or contact Judith Shawe on 01656 786446.



Yellow Bucket Update - Newton Nottage Porthcawl (NNP) Churches

Jacinth Jones

[Ty Bronna \(churcharmy.org\)](https://churcharmy.org); [Amber Project](#)

Thank you to everyone who has donated in the regular YELLOW BUCKET collection point at the back of the churches instigated last Christmas providing for - the homeless, 'leaving care' Church Army projects 'Ty Bronna' hostel and the 'Amber Project'; and supporting vulnerable young people, with and without children, suffering issues like family breakdown, mental health, substance misuse and self-harm alongside money worries and day-to-day cost of living crises.

For those who don't know, these Church Army projects are very close to Fr Jonathan (Durley)'s heart as before entering the priesthood, he was a qualified social worker and the manager of Ty Bronna. *[If you ask me, it's just an excuse to go back there delivering goods, to check his old office and time capsule! Ha, ha! Yes, he really did create a time capsule with the 14 - 25yr olds he supported! How cool is that (Blue Peter 'eat your heart out')]*

However, I digress. Ty Bronna is a warm and welcoming home for young people. What Fr Jon has asked me to share is that on Thursday 26th September, we visited Ty Bronna with 11 large carrier bags of items donated by kind NNP congregations from the yellow buckets - toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, flannels, shower gel, sanitary products, cosmetics, hairbrushes, combs, aftershave, deodorant (think teenager!), socks and underwear. Ty Bronna staff were thrilled. One young mum resident at Ty Bronna was thrilled with leggings for her toddler daughter. Our next visit there will be for Christmas 2024 (think chocolate, make-up and socks!). Ty Bronna staff also expressed a need for home cleaning products and washing powder, providing for young people learning independent living skills all year.

Please note: Some items such as toothbrushes, washing powder and nappies overlap with what the young people supported by the Church Army need and what's given to Foodbank, both ongoing NNP charitable mission projects. But PLEASE don't confuse the yellow buckets with the purple ones which are specifically for the Foodbank (contact via Judith Shawe).

Harvest Lunch 6th October 2024

Janice and Linda

Our annual Harvest Lunch took place in a bright and autumnally decorated St John's schoolroom on Sunday 6th October. It was lovely to welcome you all with a glass of rum punch and to hear that you enjoyed the meal, surroundings and companionship. A few of our regulars were unable to attend but we were very blessed with a full contingent of waitresses along with their children who we are training up for the next generation!

The main money from the Harvest Lunch as usual went to Christian Aid as did the takings from our little game of 'Heads and Tails' - familiar to those who have been to All Saints lunches. This totalled £350. The bar takings went to the church to cover utilities used and they received £80. Once again, you were very generous in your support of the raffle with funds going, as usual, to Newton Flower Guild - this time a healthy £110.

Our thanks to Fr Wayne for saying grace and for helping with the raffle. Once again, we had a harmonious kitchen - well done, Chris and Janice.

Anyone wanting to book for the Christmas Lunch on 8 December at the schoolroom, please ring Linda on 01656 772014 or speak to Iris.

Don't forget to support us on 23rd November at St David's for the 200 Club Soup Lunch at 12.30 complete with raffle and stall.

Thank you,
Janice and Linda

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News from Margam Abbey

Wendy Greensmith

Everyone at Margam Abbey was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Canon Derek Belcher on Sunday September 29th.

Father Belcher was Incumbent at the Abbey from 1986 to 2001. In 1999 he was installed as Rural Dean of Margam.

He worked tirelessly during his time with us, overseeing the very successful "Abbots Kitchen", where his knowledge and skills during an earlier career in catering along with becoming a dietician in the health service were invaluable.

He will be remembered with the greatest of affection, we are all the richer for having known Father Belcher and are grateful for the time spent with us all at the Abbey

The parishioners at the Abbey send their heartfelt condolences to his widow Pam and their children.

May he now "Rest in Peace and rise in glory"

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On a happier note, two of our very long serving and hard working ladies had the honour of being invited to an afternoon tea at Margam Park Orangery on September 13th.

Congratulations

Hilary Snook and Catherine Radcliffe attended the event where, Pam Rhodes, the vice-president of the Leprosy mission was in attendance.

She gave a talk about the work the Leprosy mission undertakes in many countries, in particular Nepal and Bangladesh. Over 200,000 people contract leprosy each year, but if caught early enough it is curable.

Hilary and Catherine work hard raising funds for the mission. The Abbey are incredibly grateful to have such people in our "family" and were delighted to see them getting the recognition they so rightly deserve.

October has proved to be another busy month at the Abbey.

Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir gave a wonderful concert on October 19th.

We had 2 weddings during October and wish all our newlyweds a very happy and blessed married life together.

From October 20th through half term week a beautiful display of photographs showing weddings at the Abbey over many decades was a great "showstopper" enjoyed by parishioners and visitors alike.

This was greatly enhanced by a "Children's Wedding" - a role play in the children's corner. An absolute delight under the expert guidance of Liz Taylor, who runs an ever increasingly popular activity area.

Many thanks to all those who help to make these events so excellent.

Looking forward into November we have our Remembrance exhibition - "The men on our memorial" - along with our annual Remembrance service.



A Last Minute Sightseeing Trip

Adrian Warner

At the end of every month I send an email to a dozen people, family and friends, detailing how my month has been used. On rare occasions there is some feedback, and on the 5th came the news that my nephew was going to travel, in a few days time, from his Norfolk home to help his sister, who would travel from her home on the Isle of Man to look after their mother, my sister. She developed dementia ten years ago and has been wonderfully accommodated and lovingly cared for by her other son and his wife, who would be able to have a week of holiday. What an achievement; both gave up teaching, bought a small hotel by the sea, and made new careers which would enable their mother to have endless care. What sacrifice!

Now I have not seen these folk for some years so I began to plan how I could have an hour with them. My National Senior railcard had expired so £30 was spent at the station, and, "on line", a Travelodge room in Paignton was booked for the 9th and 10th. By the 7th an itinerary was typed out and though travel alone is simpler, it is also selfish, so I asked my son with FragileX, who has not been on holiday for thirty years, if he wished to come.

If you read about FragileX you will soon find that women transmit it, and my word I know how men suffer from it.

So this is how we came to leave Cardiff and see the front of Exeter Cathedral, go into the Guildhall, and cross the cast iron bridge of 1834. We walked from Dawlish Warren to Dawlish alongside the railway which was swept away and left hanging above the sea in February 2014, see the black swans, and the platform at Torquay where my parents came on honeymoon in 1936, then walk along the promenade at Paignton.

Early morning along the prom is delightful and we found the family gathering so very rewarding. My son in particular was overjoyed to see his cousins, one of whom he had not seen for thirty years. They had so much to talk about. My sister managed the word brother when she saw me before dozing off. All too soon we were shown the latest feature of the hotel, a hot tub, and were walking away to have our

sandwiches in the formal gardens of magnificent Oldway Mansion, where the Singer sewing machine was invented and developed. Onward to the monuments to the thousand plus Home Guard volunteers who died in the war, and to Agatha Christie who lived nearby. My son spoke up at the tourist office and they tracked down a plaque near where the idea for Fawlty Towers was conceived. So we waited for a bus to take us there and spoke to local people who knew more. Another bus brought the exhausting day to a pleasant end.

The journey home started by seeing the steam engine ready to haul the trains to the River Dart. Back past the black swans and the walk along the new concrete and past Starcross pumping house for Brunel's Atmospheric Railway. A break in Weston super Mare to visit the beautiful memorial garden to Jill Dando, and in Bristol to find the Balmoral near to the Great Britain and the Samuel Plimsoll memorial. A very crowded Friday afternoon train brought us back to the starting point in Cardiff. Wow !

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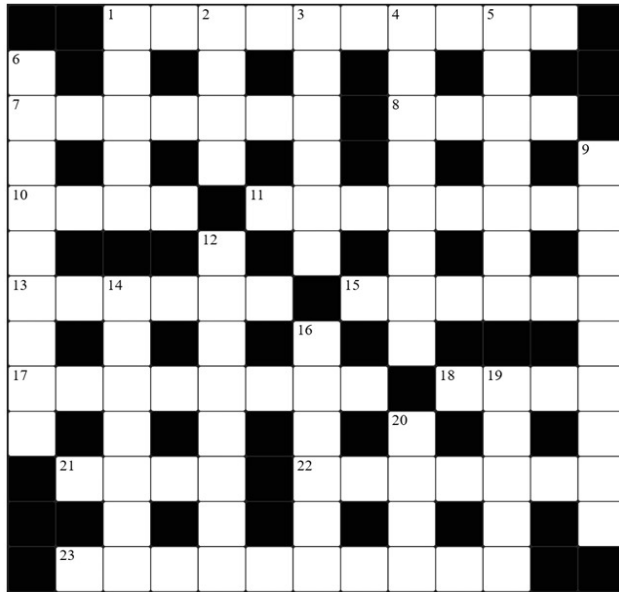
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Quick Crossword



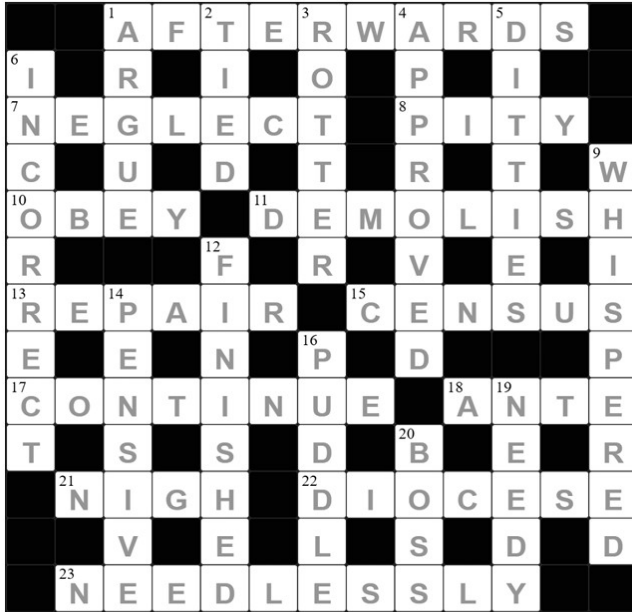
Across

- 1 Later on (10)
- 7 Fail to care for (7)
- 8 Compassion (4)
- 10 Comply with orders (4)
- 11 Destroy (8)
- 13 Mend (6)
- 15 Head count (6)
- 17 Carry on (8)
- 18 Gaming stake (4)
- 21 Near (4)
- 22 Bishop's district (7)
- 23 Unnecessarily (10)

Down

- 1 Debate (5)
- 2 Fastened (4)
- 3 Cad (6)
- 4 Okayed (8)
- 5 Simple songs (7)
- 6 Wrong (9)
- 9 Talked very quietly (9)
- 12 Completed (8)
- 14 Thoughtful (7)
- 16 Small pool (6)
- 19 Penurious (5)
- 20 Gaffer (4)

Quick Crossword Answer (page29)



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Wednesday: Mass at 11.00

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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 for details
Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

*For details of all other services,
visit www.margam.org.uk*

Pause for Thought

An ancient prayer for Stir up Sunday

The Promise of Advent

Stir up our hearts, we beseech you,
To prepare ourselves to receive your Son.
When he comes and knocks,
May he find us not sleeping in sin,
But awake to righteousness,
Ceaselessly rejoicing in his love.
May our hearts and minds be so purified,
That we may be ready to receive
His promise of eternal life.
Amen

‘Stir up Sunday’ is the last Sunday before Advent and this year falls on 24 November. It is the traditional day for everyone in the family to take a turn at stirring the Christmas pudding while making a wish.

This traditional prayer is from The Gelasian Sacramentary, c. 500, and thought to be the oldest official prayer book of the western church.

Margam Ministry Area

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Porthcawl Churches Office PorthcawlChurches@gmail.com
Fr Wayne David 01656 858935 WayneDavid@cinw.org.uk
The Rev'd Dr Duncan Walker 01656 740500 revduncan.walker@hotmail.co.uk
The Rev'd Claire Stowell 07813 767956 stowellclaire@gmail.com

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Mr David-Lloyd Jones 07747 151205 davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com

Treasurer:

Dr Paul Smart 01656 788086 pmsmart@aol.com

Safeguarding Officer:

Mr Dave Xerri 07850 129079 dave@xerri.wales

Church subwardens:

All Saints, Porthcawl	Mrs Helen Owen	01656 785763
	Mrs Judith Shawe	01656 786446
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Saint Mary Magdalene, Maudlam	Mr John Roberts	07851 122804
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Saint James, Pyle	Mrs Vanessa Evans	07817 787544
	Mrs Dawn Edwards	07419 822913
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Margam Abbey	Mrs Wendy Greensmith	01656 300691
	Mrs Bev Gulley	07530 421220

Hall Bookings

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