



# Margam

## Ministry Area Magazine



**December 2024**



## YMCA PORTHCRAWL

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## Happy Christmas



It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! Everyone is busy and that is reflected in this issue of the magazine.

It's lovely to share news from the churches across the Ministry Area. There are lots of opportunities too for us to visit the other churches at events and services to renew acquaintances and make new friends.

Amongst all that hustle and bustle remember to take a moment for quiet reflection. It's all too easy to get swept along with the festivities and to forget the true meaning of Christmas.

This December issue is another chance to pause and reflect as you read through the articles. We're lucky to have such a rich mix of folk within our church family. A big thank-you to our many contributors (for this issue and throughout the year) and to our advertisers- without your input this magazine just wouldn't be.

Please continue with your contributions in 2025 – our first issue is January/February, so articles to me by Friday 24 January, please. And if you know of anyone who'd like to advertise with us, please direct them to me before 24 January.

Have a sparkling Christmas and a peaceful New Year.  
See you in 2025!

*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:** Fr Jonathan on "Spotty Sunday" at Margam Abbey raising money for BBC Children in Need

### **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*

Many of our churches, schools, uniformed and community groups are busy rehearsing for their nativity plays and carol services, when we once again revisit the story of the Nativity. Those narratives presented in the Bible do not pretend that it was easy for Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. It was quite the opposite involving dangerous journeys, homelessness and fear due to the threat of power of occupying forces and a mad dictator, Herod, who keenly felt the threat of a newly born King! The Gospels of Matthew and Luke do not convey a scene which is idyllic, but rather the raw details of the context into which Jesus was born at that first Christmas.

Sadly, so many of our sisters and brothers around the world continue to face so many of the social issues which the 'Holy Family' felt in that first Christmas. God choosing to send his son into the world at the time, he was born into a world which was both fragile and risky. As Jesus was born as a refugee, threatened with a death sentence, whose first resting place was a manger in a stable, it was no fairy tale. When we understand the challenges faced by the holy family, then we can recognise that God is not distant or remote, but a participant in what can be considered the worst of human experience. Such an experience which connects with so many in our world today.

The true Christmas message is about Jesus being born into a human situation which is vulnerable and real, which reminds us that our faith is in God, who we can trust in spite of the injustices which plight our world today. The true Christmas story tells us that God is a constant presence and strength and will not give up on us nor will he.

Some of the poignant words in the biblical narrative of the Christmas story are 'there was no room for them.' There was no room in the hearts of extended family, friends, neighbours or anyone else they approached, apart from the Inn Keeper.

My prayer this Christmas is that we can be Christ's Ambassadors who look out for the likes of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, who demonstrate the Christian virtues of love, justice, compassion and acceptance.

**Out of all the:  
beautiful houses  
Well-to-do families  
Professionals in Bethlehem  
Families of the Pharisees  
Beautiful girls in Judea  
Richest cities in the world  
Jesus was born  
In a cattle shed  
To a poor, insignificant but obedient family  
To a carpenter named Joseph  
And a young woman, Mary  
In Bethlehem**

**May your Holy Spirit enable us to realise that your birth indicates  
that our mission involves working with the:**

**Marginalised  
Destitute  
Forgotten  
Aids victims  
Widows and orphans  
And untouchables  
Whatever we do to the least of his brethren .....  
(Goodwin Zainga)**

May you all have a happy, blessed and holy Christmas.

*With love and prayers,*

*Fr. Jonathan*



Dear Friends,

*Rev Dr Duncan Walker*

As we enter this sacred season of Advent, we embark on a journey of preparation and anticipation. It is a time for quiet reflection, heartfelt prayer, and joyful expectation as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. During these weeks, we are invited to deepen our faith and open our hearts to the profound mystery of God's love made manifest in the birth of Christ.

The first week of Advent calls us to focus on hope. We are reminded of the hope that the prophets of old proclaimed, the hope that sustained God's people through times of waiting and longing. Let us lift our voices in the words of the hymn:

"O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

In our prayers, let us ask God to fill our hearts with hope, that we may trust in His promises and remain steadfast in our faith.

The second week of Advent invites us to contemplate the gift of peace. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, comes to reconcile us to God and to one another. We sing with longing and anticipation:

"Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee."

As we pray, let us seek God's peace in our hearts and in our world. May we become instruments of His peace, bringing reconciliation and healing wherever it is needed.

The third week of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, is a time to rejoice. We celebrate with joy the nearness of our Saviour's birth. The hymn captures this joyful anticipation:

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing."

In our prayers, let us express our joy and gratitude for the blessings we have received. May we share this joy with others, especially those who are lonely or in need of comfort.

The final week of Advent centres on the theme of love. We reflect on the boundless love of God, who sent His only Son to be our Saviour.

The hymn reminds us of this great love:

"Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign."

Let us pray that God's love may dwell richly in our hearts, inspiring us to love one another as He has loved us. May we reach out with acts of kindness and compassion, embodying the love of Christ in our daily lives.

As we reach the culmination of our Advent journey on Christmas Eve, we celebrate the coming of the Light of the world. The hymn beautifully expresses the wonder of this holy night:

"Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright; round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace."

In our prayers, let us give thanks for the gift of Jesus, the Light who dispels all darkness. May His light shine brightly in our hearts, guiding us on our path of faith.

As we journey through Advent, let us be mindful of these themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Let our prayers and hymns lift us closer to God, preparing us to receive the great gift of His Son. May this season be a time of spiritual renewal and deepened faith for each of us.

*With Christian Greetings,  
Duncan*



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## Thank you and goodbye

*Wendy Xerri*

It seems like a lifetime ago when Bishop June rang me and asked if I would be the Lay Chair for the new, as yet unnamed, ministry area. A few others had made the same request, and my answer had always been a firm no. I suppose Bishop June was used to getting her way and by the end of the phone call it was a done deal. I'm still not sure how that happened.

For me, my time in church is a time of quiet contemplation. I am privileged to be able to walk to the same church I walked to as a child, from where I was baptised and married. Whilst I have never hidden my strong Christian faith, I do tend to keep it private. So to now be at the forefront of bringing together a group of seven churches, who possibly never wanted to come together in the first place, was daunting to say the least.

Our journey together has been far from a straight path, there have been many bumps in the road and no doubt there will be many more ahead. Bishop +June is now Bishop +Mary, Archdeacon Mike Komor is now Archdeacon Mark Preece. We have had new clergy join us, and some clergy have retired or moved on to pastures new. I have been tirelessly supported by Fr Jonathan, Rev Duncan, and Fr Wayne, with David-Lloyd and Gareth as Wardens, Paul as Treasurer, James as Mission lead, Dave as Safeguarding lead, and all the members of the Ministry Area Council. They have been quite a formidable team and I am thankful to every one of them for supporting me in my role.

We have achieved so much together. We have increased our worship in St Mary's Trecco Bay, have created the wonderful Margam Calling, the Family Breakfast is a much needed resource and such a resounding success. We have spread our joyful message to the In It Together Festival and Party on the Pitch. Our Christmas Sparkle campaign and Christmas Cracker Food Bags helped so many families last year. And so much more. But perhaps the most important change for me is that we are now one big family, we work together, pray together and grow in our faith together.

Of course I did none of this myself. My job was to get everyone



together, provide a space and a structure for the very best ideas to be planned, financed and executed. For some in our community we have been too slow, for others too fast, and the changes in authority and decision making routes have been a challenge for some to get used to. But we have done it all through friendship and in the knowledge that God is with us on our journey.

So, on 31<sup>st</sup> December I will be standing down after three years as Lay Chair. It has been an honour and privilege to serve in Margam Ministry Area. I truly believe we are in a better place now than we were before ministry areas were developed, there is strength in numbers, and in sharing the load. The future looks bright and there are some wonderful initiatives being planned to help us grow together in Christ. I look forward to watching this happen, but this time from the sidelines!

*Wendy Xerri*

*Chair, Margam Ministry Area*

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## News from All Saints

*Pam Rossini*



It's Saturday 23rd November and the wind is howling and the rain lashing down on us. Tonight is the concert by the Savoyards giving excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan and I must admit I feel reluctant to move from my electric blanket! Once we arrive at All Saints all will be well as luckily the heating will be blasting away and, if you feel the need of it, Helen will provide you with a cheery drink, then the music carries you away and you are so pleased to be there.

Two weeks ago it was Remembrance Sunday when the country gives thanks to all those young people who died for us. Then we thought it was the war to end all wars, how wrong we were. Since then we have had conflicts throughout the world with men and women prepared to make a sacrifice for a better life for their children. Today in Ukraine, life is hard for civilians and troops but what courage they have shown, against all odds, they are still fighting for their country. Let us pray that we shall never be put to the test.

We will soon be in the throes of Christmas shopping and all that that involves. Lists of presents to buy and lists of friends and family to send cards to. It can be a bit of a quandary. I have opted for giving charity donations to the grown-ups. It's not as exciting as opening a parcel but you do get a warm glow to know you are doing some good. Another good idea is to ask a loved one to help with the many bills that keep cropping up. As for the little ones, a good look around the charity shops can come up with real bargains.

There are plenty of Christmas concerts on to suit most tastes. A very popular one is the RNLI Christmas Carol Concert, a very worthy cause. When your boat is sinking who do you pray to see? The RNLI lifeboat, of course, and the heroes that man them.

Advent will soon be here, a time to concentrate on the arrival of Jesus Christ's nativity. The first week of Advent emphasises hope, the second week peace, the third week joy and the last week love. During this time Advent candles are lit and Advent wreaths made, special services are held until the final service on Christmas Eve to rejoice in the birth of Christ.

So, we have much to look forward to – the pleasure of being with friends, the love of our family and the joy of being able to come together in peace.

Happy Christmas!

## **A magnificent display**

*Helen Owen*

The talented ladies of Newton WI came for the second year to decorate our Church for Remembrance Sunday.

The garden Cross made a poignant statement, dressed appropriately with poppies. Moving inside the church, the font greeted you festooned with ivy and evergreen and poppies. Then your eyes were drawn to the pulpit, hanging from which was a green drape covered with an abundance of poppies very cleverly attached and all hand-made with love.

We are so grateful and wish to thank all you ladies who made this wonderful display possible.

## **Porthcawl volunteers receive King's Coronation Medals**

Porthcawl RNLI lifeboat volunteers were presented with King's Coronation Medals on 30 October by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Peter Vaughan QPM CStJ.



The commemorative medals were created to honour the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. As well as the Armed Forces, the medal was awarded to emergency service personnel, such as the RNLI, who had completed 5 years continuous service and were in service at the time of the coronation.

Coronation medals were presented to 4500 frontline RNLI volunteers and staff with Porthcawl RNLI's volunteers receiving a total of 31. The Lord-Lieutenant said: "It's a great honour for me to visit Porthcawl RNLI to present you with these medals which mark the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The medals are presented in recognition of your continuous service and dedication to volunteering for the RNLI."

## Newton Nottage Mothers' Union

*Judith Shawe*



A great meeting in November when we welcomed Nicola Rylance, the Deaf Community person for Llandaff. Nicola is deaf herself, and she talked of the difficulties faced by deaf people at services in church. It was very enlightening, and we all benefited from the information Nicola shared. I'd like to say that we were model students of her British Sign Language mini-lesson - but we all enjoyed it immensely, and look forward to a return visit from Nicola. The next meeting is on Tuesday, 3rd December at 2pm in All Saints hall, when we'll be joined by Fr Graham to have a festive sing song, aided by mince pies and tea/coffee (this is the Mothers' Union!) Everyone is welcome.

At the time of writing, there are only 5 dates left to host the Posada - Mary and Joseph and a truly superb donkey - thanks Maggie. The list will be in All Saints during November, before the start of their journey on Advent Sunday, although you can ring me too (786446).

We're looking forward to seeing the MU Christmas tree going up soon, courtesy of Maria and Kelly. The girls buy a real tree every year, and decorate it beautifully. It'll be a star attraction at the Christmas CROESO on the 21st December at 2pm.

Christmas CROESO will start with 'Come + Sing Xmas Carols', followed by mulled wine (tea +coffee -see above!) and mince pies. There will be a cake stall and a raffle. Come and enjoy!

The AGM will be in January on a Saturday afternoon, date to be confirmed. Mothers' Union and Thursday Group members only at this meeting. It just remains to say 'Happy Christmas and God bless us, everyone'.

### **"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 on Zoom - the next is on Tuesday 17th December at 8pm. For more information, contact Valerie on 07881 818760.



## News from St David's

Pat Parry



The Porthcawl Churches 200 club draw was held at a soup lunch in St. David's on 22nd November. It was nice to socialise with people from the three Porthcawl Churches. Many thanks to the committee for organising the event and making the soup. There was also the usual raffle and a stall selling home-made chutney and jam and knitted articles .

### Concerts in All Saints Church in December

**Friday 6th December at 7.30pm - 'Broadway Christmas'**

Tickets at the door £10 adults and £6 children.

**Saturday 14th December at 7pm - Bro Ogwr Christmas Concert**

with special guests from Oldcastle Primary School.

**'On Christmas Night' by Bob Chilcott and other festive works.**

Tickets £12 at the door.

### Christmas CROESO !!

*\*Come + Sing Xmas Carols\**

*Followed by mulled wine\* and mince pies*

*There'll be a Cake Stall + Raffle*

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**at 2pm in All Saints'**

**CROESO !!**

**\*there'll be Tea and Coffee too !!**



St John the Baptist,  
Newton

14<sup>th</sup> DEC



Community  
Carol Singing

2pm start  
followed by light refreshments

All are welcome, free entry!



## News from St John's

*Diane Jackson*

Advent and Christmas are rapidly approaching and the weather this week has turned appropriately very cold! Still there is much to look forward to with many of our usual services starting with Darkness into Light. Even if the church is not very warm whilst we await the new boiler, our hearts and Christian fellowship will keep us warm. It has been suggested that anyone who buys their turkey early, can keep it in the church for cold storage!

Fr Wayne will soon be back from his cruise, hopefully refreshed and ready for his first Advent and Christmas with us. Another milestone in his Ministry.

In addition to the usual services we will be holding our annual Christmas Coffee Morning on Friday 6th December. Full details have been on the weekly sheet. That will be closely followed with the Christmas Lunch on 8th December. Hopefully both events will be well supported with all profits going into church funds. Don't forget your Christmas jumpers!!

Looking back into November, Diane Lewis and Kevin Boscott both celebrated birthdays on the same day at the beginning of the month - I won't mention their ages. It was a very busy morning and we celebrated in typical St John's style with cake and sherry.

So until next year, I wish you all the blessing of this holy time, stay warm and healthy and make the most of every day.

### **Rotary Young Musician Competition**

*Rotarian Robert Lee*

The prestigious Rotary Young Musician Competition held in All Saints in November delivered an afternoon of musical brilliance. The event showcased ten exceptionally talented young musicians with a variety of instruments from saxophone and flute to piano and trumpet.

15-year-old Owen Hill's extraordinary dedication and skill earned him top honours and he will now represent the competition at the district level at All Saints church on 15th February. Congratulations to Owen and best wishes for the next stage.

## Once Upon a Christmas:

### A Margam Calling Family Carol Service with a Difference!

Mark your calendars! On Sunday 1st December at 4pm, Margam Calling is set to transform Margam Abbey into a festive wonderland for “Once Upon a Christmas,” a family Christmas Carol service like no other. The service promises to blend traditional carols and songs, delightful activities, and engaging storytelling, with a guest singer and band, making it a celebration not to be missed. Bring your family, friends, and neighbours along to experience the true spirit of Christmas. You’re Invited!



### Another Successful Season for Margam Calling

Margam Calling has concluded its Autumn 2024 series, “Ever Wonder Why?”, with resounding success. This season provided a platform for congregants to engage with profound questions of faith, fostering a deeper understanding and connection within the community.

The series commenced on 22nd September with the session titled “Why Did God Let It Happen?”, addressing the challenging topic of why God allows suffering. Subsequent sessions explored themes such as the existence of hell, the nature of prayer, and the depth of God’s love, culminating in a special Christmas service, “Once Upon a Christmas,” at Margam Abbey on 1st December.

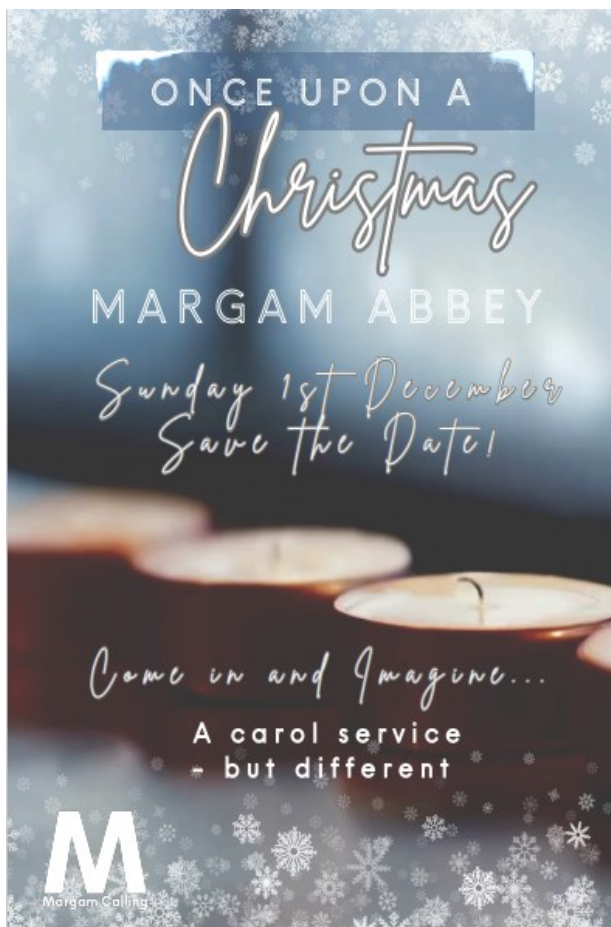
The congregation’s enthusiastic participation and thoughtful discussions have been truly inspiring. We are grateful for the dedication of our members and the warmth they bring to our gatherings.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that our next series will commence in January 2025. While details are still being finalised, we are committed to continuing our journey of faith exploration and community building. Look out for further information in January’s magazine and on our website and social media channels.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the success of this season and look forward to embarking on the next chapter together.

Come and belong, you’re invited! [www.margamcalling.org.uk](http://www.margamcalling.org.uk)





## 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 Sund Mass, MARGAM ABBEY
- 4pm: Sung Holy Communion, ST JAMES, PYLE

### **Tuesday 31st December, New Year's Eve:**

- 11.15pm: Bellringers 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

## Rotary Porthcawl Christmas Post

*Rotarian Robert Lee*

Yes, Christmas is coming and once again the Porthcawl Rotarian Posties are warming their thermals, ready to deliver your Rotary stamped Christmas cards to raise money for Rotary.

From 18th November to 16th December, our Rotary 'Posties' will collect, sort and deliver Christmas post with specially designed Rotary Christmas stamps.

You can buy Rotary Christmas stamps from participating local outlets and post your cards in special Rotary Post boxes at these stores to addresses in the **CF36 postal area** and still for only 35p! (or 3-for- £1).

Please remember that cards can **only be posted at these stores** and **can only be delivered to Porthcawl CF36 addresses**.

The stamps can be bought and cards posted at the following stores: -

- Greeting@Maple - John Street
- Walters Shoes - John Street
- Carpet Care - Well Street
- Nottage Stores - Nottage
- Brush Strokes - Station Hill
- Bargain Booze - Newton
- General Stores - Rest Bay
- One Café - Newton
- Pantri Box - Harlequin Building, Dock Street
- Parc Stores - Cilparc
- Sussed - James Street
- Co-op - Lias Road & Newton

Thank you for your support!

*Merry Christmas*



## **Trip 8 to Ukraine - Delivering An Ambulance & 4x4 Pick Up**

*Mike Hnyda*

In March, I made an appeal on JustGiving to raise money to buy an ambulance for a medical team in Ukraine. As a result of your generosity, donations and support, I was able to buy not only an ambulance for the Medical Volunteer Team in Ukraine, but also a Toyota 4x4 pick up for the military medics at the front line to evacuate the injured.

The JustGiving campaign raised an amazing £7,884. In addition to this, a concert of “The Armed Man” at All Saints Church, Porthcawl, by Roger Hudd and the Glamorgan Savoyards, raised a further £3,503, giving us an amazing total of £11,387 allowing us to buy a second vehicle for Ukraine and the medics.

I have done a quick calculation and worked out that All Saints has in total donated £2,139 to Ukraine, Wales Aid for Ukraine and my trips to Ukraine to deliver aid. Thank you so much, that is a huge sum and has allowed me to buy so much specialised, requested and lifesaving equipment and medicines for Ukraine.

We have now undertaken trip 8 to Ukraine to deliver a Toyota Hilux 4x4 to Dr Viktor Oshovskyy in Kyiv for the front line medics. We also bought a Mercedes Ambulance in Poland, which is now being fitted out with additional medical equipment and camouflage paint ready to be taken to Ukraine.

Let me introduce you to some of the people involved and why I and Wales Aid for Ukraine continue to support them in this terrible war.

Dr Viktor Oshovskyy is an amazing man, who runs an organisation he set up to supply front line medics with essential life-saving equipment and medicines - delivered within 6 hours - due to the support he receives from people like you and me. His organisation is staffed by volunteers and using donations of medical equipment, dressings and medicines, but never money, from all over the world, he delivers this specialist aid, as well as donated 4x4's, such as ours, to undertake medical evacuations of the injured from the front line.

Dr Viktor is a Gynaecologist and in his own words says he used to “bring beautiful life into the world” but now tries to “save beautiful

young lives". Not only that, but Viktor also goes to the front line himself, on 1-month rotations, to help and to save lives. As I type this Dr Viktor is currently on the frontline.

During his last rotation at the front, Viktor requested a 4x4 pick up to evacuate the injured, which is an extremely dangerous and perilous job - and due to your support - we have done it.

Sebastian Zimny, who I've travelled to Ukraine with since trip 2, has spent a huge amount of time helping Ukraine. When the war started, he spent 3 months evacuating women and children, as well as taking food supplies to villages under fire. Sebastian started this appeal by asking me if I could help get an ambulance for a Polish/Ukrainian Medical Volunteer team. The team is made up of doctors, medics and drivers and who have operated from Kramatorsk since the start of the war. Sebastian himself is going to volunteer as a driver for the team and has recently been on a medical trauma course in preparation.

The team take the injured from stabilisation hospitals to general hospitals across Ukraine for further treatment. Sebastian and I have travelled the road from Dnipro to the front many times and always see a constant stream of ambulances.

I'm delighted to say that we personally delivered the 4x4 pick up to Dr Viktor in Kyiv in August. I travelled to Kyiv with John Rees an old work colleague. Thanks to John for giving up so much time and for his company - the only traffic jam all the way to Kyiv was at Newport!!

I was thinking at the start of this appeal that this would possibly be my last trip to Ukraine. When you witness at first hand the resilience of the Ukrainian people, the suffering, the loss and their brilliance in adversity, with people such as Viktor and the Volunteer Medical Team, I know I just can't stop. I just feel that I have to try to keep helping.

The Ukrainians value the support from overseas in the highest esteem because it means that people and the world have not forgotten about them in their hour of need. They place tremendous value on the support, so thank you so much for your generosity - it does have a major impact in Ukraine.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!



## News from Margam Abbey

*Bev Gulley*

In November, we lost our much-loved Organist and friend Canon Richard Hanford. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his daughters, Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca and their families. Canon Hanford studied at Keble College Oxford as a 'Wakeman Exhibitioner' in history, before seeking Ordination (one of a group of 5 men from the same era at St Theodore's Port Talbot, ordained as Priests/Deacons in 1964). We were honoured that Canon Hanford celebrated his Diamond Jubilee Mass at the Abbey in July, where sun blazing, it was a service that those of us who attended, will never forget. Canon Hanford's working life included a short-service commission (then married to Susan) in the Royal Navy, working in the Church in Wales and Church of England, becoming Canon Precentor of Guilford Cathedral, as well as carrying our chaplaincy roles to the Royal British Legion and High Sheriff of West Glamorgan, was a member of the General Synod of the Church of England and Vicar of several parishes. He was a Canon Lawyer; lectured at Chichester Theological College; was a talented organist - wearing the same pair of shoes for playing (held together with black tape) for 70 years; and as a still keen historian, (his thesis at Oxford on Bernard of Clairvaux), treated us annually to a scholarly sermon on the anniversary of St Bernard, without whom there would be no Margam Abbey.

Also in November, was the Service of Remembrance (Archdeacon Mark Preece, presiding) where Rod Hughes, a former serviceman carried out a silent guard in the uniform of a WW1 soldier at the War Memorial, to the front of the Abbey; a poignant sight and reminder of the futility of war.

Other November highlights were: A talk by Gareth Scourfield on '*The Life and Tomb of Theodore Mansel Talbot*' and '*The Monks of Margam*' by Bev Gulley, on the anniversary of the foundation of Margam Abbey in 1147. Bev did guided tours for Verve Tours of Pembrokeshire and the South Wales tourism 'Guide Awards' recipients. Our Mothers' Union speaker was Rod Hughes on the life and works of Dylan Thomas, which was a wonderful afternoon. The December meeting is a Christmas lunch in Blancos. Liz was busy as ever, with





Children's Corner, our little ones enjoying themed activities for Remembrance and 'Spotty Sunday' in aid of 'Children in Need'. The Abbey and Drill Hall were in use for several days for the filming of 'Young Sherlock' an Amazon Prime production, which we look forward to seeing.

December (Advent) - Our Gift shop is very well stocked, particularly with Abbey Church mice, seeking a home for Christmas! We are open every weekend. Do visit us for beautiful Christmas gifts and a cuppa. We would love to see you.

Main events include:

Margam Calling 'Once Upon a Christmas' - 4pm Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Messy Church - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 1pm

Christingle - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December: 2pm (Christingle making in Hall). 3pm Service

Ed Jones Quartet 'An Evening of Christmas Jazz' tickets £5 - 7pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

'Oh Holy Night' - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm 'Cantorion Pentalar' Christmas Concert Tickets £20

Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 4pm

Crib Service (Living Nativity) - Christmas Eve 3pm

Midnight Mass - Christmas Eve 11pm

Christmas Day - Said Mass 8.30am

Organ Concert William Reynolds - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December 6pm (tbc).

Follow us on Facebook: Margam Abbey Church

on (X) Twitter: margam\_abbey and Instagram: margamabbeychurch

### **What's in your Christmas pudding this year?**

There is a tradition, which dates from the Middle Ages, of putting silver coins into Christmas puddings. The first coins used were a silver farthing or penny.

After World War One, it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Finding one was supposed to bring you good fortune, but probably it was more likely to break a tooth as you bit into the pudding.

We now pay for most things with plastic or by tapping a mobile phone. In future, will people put old credit cards or phones in their Christmas pudding? I hope not.

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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

freedom from constraint, captivity, slavery, or tyranny: freedom to do as one pleases:

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

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

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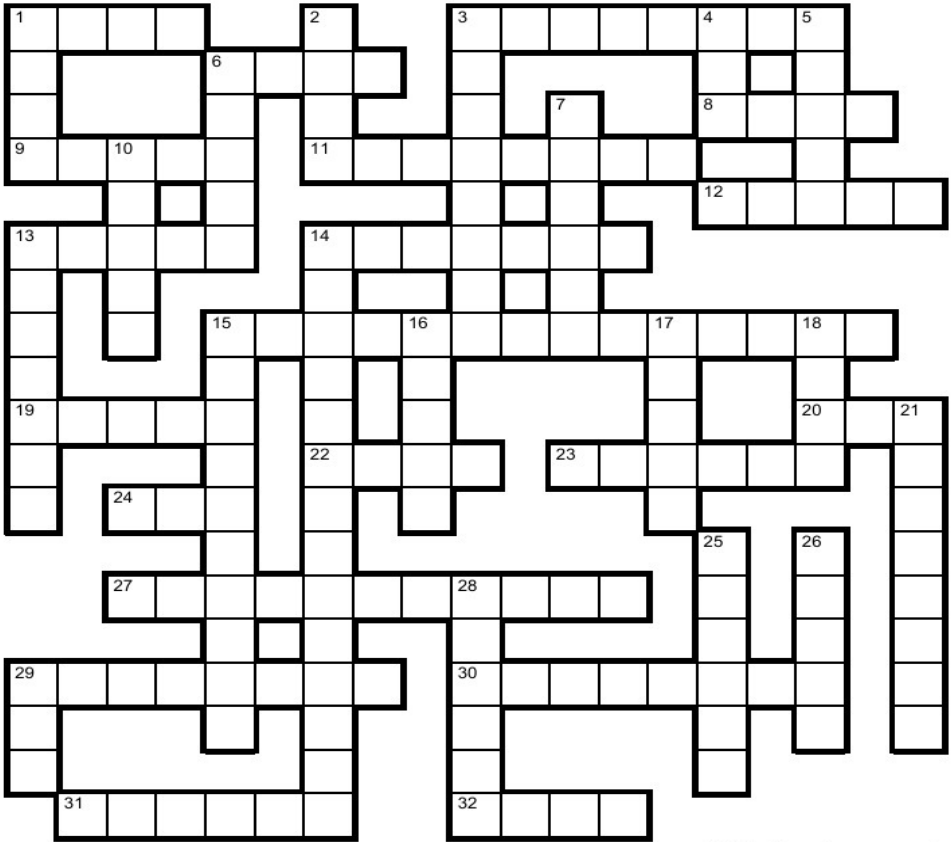
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# Christmas Crossword



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## What do you do on Christmas Eve?

Christmas Eve has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mass. This is the only Mass of the year that is allowed to start after sunset.

In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand.

In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service. The British are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents:

**Across**

- 1 Transportation for going over snow (4)  
 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)  
 6 Baby's bed (4)  
 8 Period from 24 Dec to 6 Jan (4)  
 9 Red-breasted bird (5)  
 11 12 days after Christmas (8)  
 12 Alcoholic drink served in a bowl (5)  
 13 Jolly (5)  
 14 News (7)  
 15 Goes with turkey (9,5)  
 19 Type of tree used at Christmas (5)  
 20 Colour of Santa's hat (3)  
 22 \_\_\_\_ log; burned at Christmas (4)  
 23 Sanctified (6)  
 24 Cured leg of pork (3)  
 27 Christmas song (6,5)  
 29 Found under the Christmas tree (8)  
 30 Grace (8)  
 31 Snow falls in this season (6)  
 32 Given at Christmas (4)

**Down**

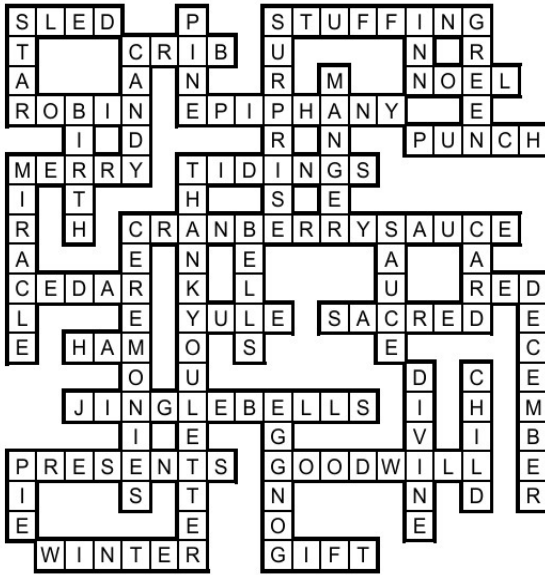
- 1 Bright celestial body (4)  
 2 Christmas tree type (4)  
 3 Take aback (8)  
 4 No room here (3)  
 5 Elvish colour (5)  
 6 Sweets: flavoured sugar (5)  
 7 Container found in a stable (6)  
 10 Beginning of life (5)  
 13 Amazing event (7)  
 14 Written after Christmas (5,3,6)  
 15 Formal events (10)  
 16 Ring out from churches (5)  
 17 Accompaniment for food (5)  
 18 Printed or written greeting (4)  
 21 Month when Christmas falls (8)  
 25 Nature of God (6)  
 26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)  
 28 Milk, egg & alcohol drink (6)  
 29 Pastry dish (3)

in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the British are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until Twelfth Night (6th January).

Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought inside.

# Christmas Crossword Answer (page28 and 29)



Across: 1 Sled, 3 Stuffing, 6 Crib, 8 Noel, 9 Robin, 11 Epiphany, 12 Punch, 13 Merry, 14 Tidings, 15 Cranberry sauce, 19 Cedar, 20 Red, 22 Yule, 23 Sacred, 24 Ham, 27 Jingle Bells, 29 Presents, 30 Goodwill, 31 Winter, 32 Gift.

Down: 1 Star, 2 Pine, 3 Surprise, 4 Inn, 5 Green, 6 Candy, 7 Manger, 10 Birth, 13 Miracle, 14 Thank you letter, 15 Ceremonies, 16 Bells, 17 Sauce, 18 Card, 21 December, 25 Divine, 26 Child, 28 Eggnog, 29 Pie.

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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

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Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

*For details of all other services,  
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## Pause for Thought

### The Gift of Giving

Give out of love, not obligation.

Give when it's least expected.

Give without strings attached.

Give from your heart.

Give of yourself.

Give to show that you care.

Give help without causing helplessness.

Give something that takes personal sacrifice.

Give to make a difference.

Give without keeping score.

Give for no reason at all.

Give a little if you can't give a lot.

Give without attracting attention to yourself.

Give without being asked.

Give of your experience.

Give to those who need it most.

*Frank Sonnenberg*



## 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)

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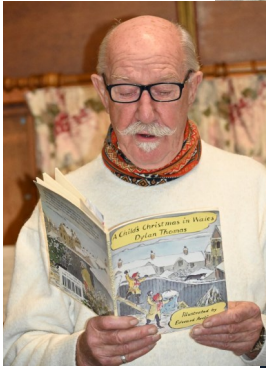
Mr Dave Xerri 07850 129079 [dave@xerri.wales](mailto:dave@xerri.wales)

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	Mrs Judith Shawe	01656 786446
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	Miss Denver Whale	01656 782573
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