



# Margam

## Ministry Area Magazine



# June 2024



# COMMUNITY FESTIVAL CONCERT

## Swansea Based Trio **ELLIE JONES TRIO**

*The Great American Song Book  
& Swing Era*



**St Theodore's Church  
Kenfig Hill**

**Friday June 21st @ 7pm  
Tickets £10**

**PART OF THE KENFIG HILL & PYLE  
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL WEEK**





## Summer is around the corner!

Thank goodness, the sun is shining and it's starting to feel a little warmer! We've certainly seen a lot of rain this year, although we've been luckier than many across the UK.

Something that hasn't been dampened is the enthusiasm of our contributors. Thank you all. Once again we have a variety of articles and, I hope you'll agree, they make for a jolly good read! In this issue, we're reminded of the upcoming D-Day 80 commemorations, go on a lovely visual tour with the Holy Hikers, ponder the wonders of language, say our farewells to Fr Mark and soak up all the news from across the Ministry Area.

It's a busy time ahead of us too – June brings The Armed Man concert in All Saints, the Pyle and Kenfig Hill Community Festival, a wealth of activity at Margam Abbey and, of course, Churches Unlocked at St John the Baptist church.

So settle down with your favourite cuppa and enjoy a quiet read.

If you are inspired and would like to contribute, we'd love to hear from you. Contributions for the July issue to me by 20th June, please.

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:** Helen Owen presenting a donation for Christian Aid on behalf of All Saints to Mark Worrall and David Robinson of Churches Together in Porthcawl

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

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

And remember the Facebook pages too:

[www.facebook.com/PorthcawlParish](http://www.facebook.com/PorthcawlParish)

[www.facebook.com/TheParishOfKenfigHill](http://www.facebook.com/TheParishOfKenfigHill)

[www.facebook.com/MargamAbbey/](http://www.facebook.com/MargamAbbey/)

[www.facebook.com/pyleandkenfigchurches](http://www.facebook.com/pyleandkenfigchurches)

### Margam Calling

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

Dear Friends,

Fr. Jonathan

It was King George VI who said in a radio address on Jun 6 1944:  
*“At this historic moment surely not one of us is too busy, too young or too old to play a part in a nation-wide, perchance a world-wide vigil of prayer as the great crusade sets forth.”*

As we enter the month of June, we will find ourselves in the midst of the D-DAY 80 commemorations which will be taking place across our nation and France.

At dawn on June 6, 1944, an armada of 7,000 ships approached the Normandy coast. On board were 133,000 men preparing to land in the Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword sectors. In the days that followed, thousands of young service personnel representing fifteen different nations and 177 Frenchmen of the Kieffer Commando landed on the Normandy beaches to liberate France.

Historians consider the D-Day landings to be the largest amphibious and airborne operation of all time. A major air and naval bombardment operation preceded the assault.

By the evening of 6 June, more than 156,000 allied soldiers, including 23,000 paratroopers and 20,000 vehicles, were on Normandy soil. However, on that evening, 10,300 allied soldiers were killed, wounded, imprisoned or reported missing. Three months of battles followed to liberate Normandy, before attention turned to Paris and then the whole of Europe.

Due to terrible weather conditions, the launching of D-Day was delayed several times by the Supreme Commander, G. Eisenhower. At last Eisenhower had to make a final decision or miss it altogether, so on June 5th the Allied Forces embarked across the Channel. He was later reported to have said: “If there was nothing else in my life to prove the existence of an Almighty and Merciful God, the events of the next twenty-four hours did it.” The greatest break in a terrible outlay of weather occurred next day and allowed that great invasion to proceed.

The deputy chaplain-general, Canon Llewellyn Hughes, in encouraging the forces is quoted as saying ‘*He did not merely urge religion. He urged faith in the Lord Jesus Christ*’ during the services of

dedication which were held on the eve of D-Day. He went on to say *'It is not enough for an army or a nation to have a vague faith in God. It is not enough for us to rest content that our commanders are godly, and that God's flag is publicly flown. Faith in God is useless until it governs action.... The character of Christ must be known; His goodness perceived and loved; Himself accepted as Master. No special effort thrown off in an emergency will accomplish that; and there is no short cut.'*

So, our 'Remembrance' on this commemoration is an opportunity to pause and reflect on giving thanks to God and honour the memory of those who gave their lives to defend our democratic freedoms. Remembering in this way does not glorify conflict. Instead, it aims to unite people across faiths, cultures and backgrounds when we take a moment to commemorate lives lost and celebrate the lives of people that have and do serve. We participate in 'Remembrance' to never forget and as we do so we remember friends, family members and acquaintances who have shown courage, unity and sacrifice during active service from the First World War right up to the present day.

To finish I would like to quote the final words of King George VI in his radio address on June 6, 1944:

***"If from every place of worship, from home and factory, from men and women of all ages and many races and occupations, our intercessions rise, then, please God, both now and in a future not remote, the predictions of an ancient Psalm may be fulfilled: "The Lord will give strength unto his people: the Lord will give his people the blessing of peace."***

Love and prayers,  
Fr. Jonathan



Dear Friends,

*Rev Dr Duncan Walker*

The Passion of our Lord, His Resurrection and the explosive gift of the Holy Spirit set our pulses racing. On the 26th of May we celebrated the mystery and wonder of our relationship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Now we settle into the long season of Trinity, which is normally about 24 Sundays, and which takes us up to the Sunday before Advent.

In general terms the long season of Trinity is an opportunity to explore the wonders of our relationship with God in His three persons.

J.H. Blunt said: "The Sundays after Trinity may be regarded as a system illustrating the practical life of Christianity, founded on the truths previously represented [in the first half of the Church year], and guided by the example of our Blessed Lord."

Evan Daniel in his commentary on the Prayer Book feels that Trinitytide is an opportunity to think and pray about practical faith. This builds upon *Matt 5:48* where our Lord calls us to be faithful members of the church. There is no doubt that Easter and Pentecost lay a practical foundation for such a pilgrimage of faith. It is a process of loving Jesus and being in communion with Him. *John 14:21*. Growing in holiness is a major part of the Epistles of St Paul. *Phil 2:13*, *1 Thes 4:7*. The writers of Hebrews assures us that only such faith reveals God to us. *Heb 12:14*.

Growth in holiness, our sanctification, is a major teaching of the Epistles. Work out your salvation in fear and trembling (*Phil 2:12*); for this is the will of God, even your sanctification (*Phil 2:13*); God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness (*1 Thes 4:7*); Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord (*Heb 12:14*).

Paul, Peter, James and others flag up the deadly problem of following standards of the sinful world. The Apostle James advises us: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." *James 3:13*. He then goes on to describes the pitfalls of following the standards of the world. The season of Trinity has been seen as an

opportunity to seek the holiness of God in a complex and dangerous world.

The long season of Trinity unfolds many themes of walking with Jesus: being filled with the Holy Spirit and reconciled with God the Father. This fits in well with stages of Christian development and the liturgical year. In traditional Catholic and Protestant terms, the season offers us all an opportunity to reflect on where we are and where Christ calls us to be. We are assured that Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. *Matt 5:8*. St Peter assures us that such a journey of exploration blesses us. *1 Pet 5*.

There is here an emphasis upon the illumination which only spiritual reflection can give us. In *1 Cor 12* St Paul links this progression with the gifts of the Spirit. It brings us the renewal that we all need. *Eph 4:23*. It is about coping with life's challenges by putting on the whole armour of God. *Eph 6:10*. Fundamentally the season of Trinity is about illumination, in the sense of self knowledge and encountering God, leading to union with Jesus.

Obviously this is a serious and profound journey. One which the Anglican divines wrote a great deal about. Our encounter with God is personal and testing. Our commitment to the unholy priorities of the world make our reconciliation with God fraught with obstacles. This is an encounter which demands personal honesty and a commitment to God's will. The season of Trinity attempts to help us to do this. It is far from easy and the church has traditionally seen it as 'work in progress'.

*With Christian Greetings,*

*Duncan*





# YMCA - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow?



## Part 2

*John Berry BEM*

Today as an entirely voluntary-run Association there is a thriving After School Club, which becomes a Holiday Club during school holidays. The children can be seen walking from school to the YMCA in an afternoon; the laughing, happy chattering crowd bringing a smile to the faces of passers-by and local shop-keepers. The Junior and Senior Youth Clubs meet weekly and there are good relations with many local voluntary organisations who use the YMCA building for their meetings and activities.

Porthcawl Amateur Operatic Society started life in the YMCA more than eighty years ago and still practices in the YMCA close to production time. Those founding fathers in 1908 had vision, leadership and strengths that established in Porthcawl a YMCA, which has served the town and community continuously for one hundred and sixteen years.

The Centenary was recognised in various ways by many individuals and organisations. Congratulatory letters were received from the President of the World YMCA, the Mayor of Porthcawl and the leaders of many town Organisations. Poems were written and memorabilia created in various forms, a member of Silures Art Group designed a centenary logo.

The Centenary year commenced with a Service of thanksgiving in All Saints Church, which was packed to standing to hear Bishop David Yeoman preach. A group, including the Town Mayor and the British Legion standard bearer, visited Ieper (Ypres) and laid wreaths at the Menin Gate Memorial. A Book Fair was held jointly with the Porthcawl Lions Club and special events including a large cake were included in the Annual General Meeting. Seven other town Organisations joined the YMCA in presenting the Centenary Concert, which filled the Grand Pavilion. All six hundred people stood at the conclusion and sang Happy Birthday before joining in the YMCA song complete with actions!

In 2012 the then Board of Management undertook a major building



project involving removing two thirds of the existing building and rebuilding for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was a difficult decision, having obtained a grant of £400k plus some others and a ball-park figure of £500k cost for the project the lowest bid came in at almost twice that expected! The Association stepped forward in faith, but required a large loan that is being repaid. At the same time the Association became an Incorporated Body i.e. a registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. Sadly, the lack of a full time YMCA / Development worker has left the Board with a principal financial concern. Much of the previous involvement in the National, European and World Movement has been lost.

Porthcawl YMCA is alive and well today continuing true to its basic principles laid down more than a century ago, is also an Associate Member of Churches Together in Porthcawl and a member of the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.

The YMCA is a people-oriented, membership Movement. There is a need for volunteers, including Board members, who become Trustees and Directors, with a flair for consideration of the future, taking risks, having a belief in the Movement, being prepared to speak and support their beliefs taking the YMCA forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 'seeking to serve the needs of the community'. That belief needs to be rooted in the gospel on which the YMCA was founded by those twelve young men, all under the age of twenty-three and training for positions in the drapery trade, as indicated earlier.

There is always room on the Board for people with an active concern for the town. Volunteers or possible suggestions of those to be approached are invited to contact the president or chairman.

The basic message of the YMCA is taken from St. John's Gospel (*ch 17 v 21*)

**That They All May Be One**





## News from All Saints

*Pam Rossini*

It has been a busy time these last few weeks with all the clergy away from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May. Fr Graham took over in his usual gentle and efficient way, always a pleasure to have his visits.

On 9<sup>th</sup> May, Maria and her husband, Etienne, made their way to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party where Maria had been invited through her work for the RNLI. Maria is a first-class GP, she also sings in our choir. In any spare time, she makes delicious cakes for the Mothers' Union as well as being the MU Treasurer, she runs in the Park Run and still cares for her four children and husband, who is a paramedic and volunteer member of the RNLI crew – amazing!

Maria and Etienne's eldest daughter, Anousha, was also honoured at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party the following week for achieving the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Noush, also a member of the RNLI crew and a volunteer leader with both Newton and Porthcawl Brownies, is about to embark on an adventure, travelling to New Zealand before taking up her place to study medicine in Bangor.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to you all – your ambition, hard work and commitment was deservedly acknowledged.

Another congratulations this time to our dear Doris. On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May she celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party at the Grove Golf Club. The proud family and many friends were there to share her special day. Doris has had the most interesting and remarkable life. Behind her smile is determination – she has done

so much to teach and help the under-privileged in other countries. Still today, her resolve gets her to church and even though she is in much pain, her love of God gets her through.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May was the 'Holy Hike' in support of Christian Aid Week with another group of committed walkers raising money for a good cause.

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May we had a farewell service for Fr Mark. Fr Mark has been with us for what has seemed far too short a time. He



brought his lovely bride to get married in All Saints, giving us all a day of laughter and joy. Fr Mark has always been super busy, visiting the sick at the Princess of Wales hospital and in their homes, becoming a member of the RNLI, having special gatherings in his own home with music and prayer and still finding time to write a book! He has always given a thoughtful sermon, fervently presented. He never criticised but always encouraged us to be the better person we can be. He was often too busy to sit for coffees but would be someone to turn to when life gets tough. We wish you and your family a good life.

*Good luck!*

A date for your diary: on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June, we have the pleasure of a concert by the Mid Glamorgan Savoyards with Roger Hudd conducting *The Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins. Monies raised will go to Ukraine - every penny counts when these brave people are fighting to keep their freedom. Please support us.

The Mid Glamorgan Savoyards  
A concert in aid of The People of Ukraine

# The Armed Man

Karl Jenkins

All Saints Church, Porthcawl  
Saturday 1st June 2024 at 7-00pm

Tickets - £15 may be obtained from members of the company  
and at the door.

Affiliated to Making Music - The National Federation of Music Societies.  
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## “Be Still”

### Contemplative Prayer

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

For more information, contact Valerie on 07881 818760.

## YMCA PORTHCAWL

a member of Churches Together in Porthcawl  
The Y Centre, 25 John St., Porthcawl CF36 3AP  
01656 772166 porthcawlymca@hotmail.co.uk  
Registered Company: 08156824. Registered Charity: 1149008

Activities for all ages -Town Organisations for all YMCA for young people

After School & Holiday  
Clubs. Fully qualified staff

Two Youth Clubs on Monday evening  
Junior – 8 to 11 years / Senior - 12 to 15 years

Opportunities for volunteering for all ages and times to sit and chat

Openings for learning new skills:  
card making to Taekwondo!

ROOMS can be hired for birthday parties,  
meetings, lectures etc with IT equipment.

An active Board is always looking for Trustee / Directors

Further information on any of the above is available from the  
Centre Manager.

We seek out

We welcome

We inspire

We speak out

We serve others



## News from St David's

*Pat Parry*

Sadly, Marian Jones who was seriously ill when the last magazine was published, died during May. A Requiem Mass was held for her in St. David's. She had chosen hymns for her funeral many years ago including the specified tunes. She and Clive had met as children attending chapel in the Rhondda. Later they attended St Stephen's Anglican church in Ystrad Rhondda and became heavily involved in Church life there with Marian becoming the organist. They kept in touch while Marian was in university and eventually married in that same church.

Marian taught in Treorchy Comprehensive School for many years and then became head of Pentre Primary school. On retirement they moved to Porthcawl and were very much involved with life in St David's church. The church was full for her funeral with all her church family as sadly they had no family of their own. Our thoughts and prayers are with Clive at this difficult time.

Fortunately, Marjorie Pengelly has recovered from her fall and is back in church. Best wishes and prayers too for Dianne who has recently returned home following surgery.

Jeff Perrin, one of our faithful members is due for a very busy year. He has recently been elected as Mayor of Porthcawl, is President of Porthcawl Rotary and chairman of the YMCA Committee!

Ascension Day, which we thought would be our usual Thursday Said Mass, was so well attended by members of the other churches as a day of obligation that Canon Graham Holcombe wanted a full sung Mass - so there was a mad rush to choose hymns and dash home for the music. All was well in the end and we all enjoyed coffee afterwards.

The 'Holy Hike', a sponsored walk for Christian Aid organised by Churches Together, took place on 18th May. About a dozen walkers set off from St John's Church at 11am, stopping off at 10 churches in Porthcawl and finishing just after 3pm at St David's. The ladies from the Anglican churches had put on a splendid tea for them on their arrival and a few non-walkers were there to greet them.

# CHURCHES UNLOCKED FESTIVAL 2024

**Remember:**

## **Churches Unlocked at St John the Baptist Church 1st - 8th June 10am-4pm**

*Liz Singer*

Everyone is welcome to visit St John's Church during this week of the 2024 Churches Unlocked Festival. Come and discover the history, stories and hidden treasures of our lovely church.

The week kicks off with a Jazz Concert at 2pm on Saturday 1st June and closes with a Classical Concert at 2:30pm on Saturday 8th June (with Ceri Dewhurst - piano solo; Grace Community Choir - gospel songs; Philip Dewhurst - trombone recital; and Hyelim Morris and Liz Dewhurst - piano duet). Both events are free!

We look forward to welcoming you throughout the week!



## **St John's Summer Fayre - Saturday 6th July**

*Jonathan Lewis*

Put the date in your diary! This really is a highlight of the summer.

For the 2nd year running, we will be the recipients of the Jolly Sailor charity quiz for June - raffle prizes needed please! We are fortunate to get this slot. A big thanks to Joy, Michelle and all at the Jolly Sailor for your continued support. Thanks to Karen too for this great fundraising idea. In 2023 the money collected from the Jolly Sailor quiz was a big contribution to the St John's porch renovations.

Thank you to the committee who are doing sterling work getting the event ready. We would be grateful for donations of cakes and bric-a-brac again this year. Please contact Jonathan on 07881 335483.

## News from St John's

*Diane Jackson*



There has much made in recent times of the lack of clergy for the parishes and how the Cathedrals are top heavy and out of touch with the grass roots. A classic example of that appears to be what has recently occurred. For the week of 6th May, we have been without any permanent clergy. The reason being that the Bishop, in her wisdom, had ordered all the clergy of our Diocese to York - and this was during a week when Ascension Day occurred. There may be a very good reason for its timing and what she hoped to achieve from it, but on the face of it, there appeared to be very little consideration for members of our churches and their needs. We have been very lucky that Fr Graham was able to step in and cover most of the services. Thank you Graham for doing this, we are most grateful to you.

As most of you will know from last months magazine, from 1st to 8th June our church, as decreed by the Bishop, has been selected to open during that week as part of the Churches Unlocked Festival. We hope it will be well supported by all the churches within our Ministry Area, as well as with visitors who do not normally come to church. The committee organizing it would be grateful for any donation towards refreshments and flowers to decorate the church.

On Friday 3rd May, we celebrated Jacqui Willis' birthday with cake and sherry. It was so good to see both Jacqui and Becky back in church after both of them having gone through a bad spell of ill health. Nicola has obviously been doing a grand job!

Finally, we were very sad to hear that Jonathan Peglar (Iris Hickman's brother-in-law) had passed away after a very difficult illness. Jonathan was a very good organist and would play the organ for Evensong when he was available. Our condolences go to Jane, his wife, and all the family.





## 200 Club 2024-2025

*Janice and Linda*

**200  
CLUB**

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the new year of the 200 Club! As mentioned last year, our numbers are significantly lower than in previous years. With this in view, we have no alternative but to adjust the prize money. From June 2024, the prize breakdown per draw will be (after hours of deliberation!) £100, £50 and 2 x £25, but this will only be possible with three draws per year. We will still meet four times a year but at the August gathering we will have something else of interest.

Ticket prices for the four meetings have not risen in many years. It was felt better to keep the numbers at £10 but due to the rising cost of food etc. the tickets on the day will increase to £3.50. The monies raised at these social gatherings will from now on be kept until the end of the 200 Club year and donated as needed within the churches.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you all soon.

### **Christian Aid donation**

Helen Owen presented a cheque for £290 to Mark Worrall and David Robinson of Churches Together to be given to Christian Aid. The donation was the result of the Lent Lunches at All Saints.



### **What memories do you have of old Porthcawl?**

*Judith Shawe*

Ceri Joseph of Porthcawl Museum is looking for memories of old Porthcawl. She is compiling material for a book to celebrate 200 years of Porthcawl next year. If you have memories to contribute, please contact Ceri at the Museum or Judith Shawe on 01656 786446.





## Newton Nottage Mothers' Union

*Judith Shawe*

Glorious weather - it is so nice not to have to turn the heating on in the hall! As the clergy were off in York, Fr Wayne was unavailable to speak to us but, never fear, we were royally entertained by Ceri Joseph of Porthcawl Museum. Ceri took us on a trip from the early days of the police station to the thriving museum it is today. A lot of members enjoyed a wander down memory lane with the slides prompting a lot of 'Do you remember...?' Thank you Ceri, we look forward to a talk on the Samtampa disaster. It was nice to welcome Sue Coughlin back too.

Thank you to Joan for leading the Prayer Group last week. It's a quiet time of reflection and thoughtfulness with friends in the Lady Chapel. Please come along; the next is in July. At last, Corporate Communion returns! It will be on Wednesday, 12th June at 11am in All Saints, we hope to see you there.

We were unable to attend the Deanery Festival in Margam this year, but I hear a good time was had by all.

This month's Croeso Tea was attended by 37 people. Great to see new faces as well as our usual supporters. Bring your neighbours and your friends to the next tea at All Saints' on Saturday June 15th at 2pm. There's always cake, homemade and delicious! Big thanks to Fr Wayne for putting out the tables and chairs. We need helpers for this, so please let me know if you can help!

Time to say 'Goodbye and God speed ' to Fr Mark and Jess with best wishes for their next adventure. Fr Mark supported MU and donated a percentage of his book sales to us. 'May the road rise to meet you....'

Sadly, we've lost indoor member Madge Wallis. Madge was a stalwart member of MU until old age caught up with her. She died at the remarkable age of 101 years. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Her dear friend, Joan, gave a short eulogy at our meeting.

Our love and sympathy to Fr Philip and Maggie at this very sad time .

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, June 4th June at 2pm. The speaker is Norah Clarke who will talk about her time as a volunteer for the RNLI. Everyone is very welcome.

# Pererindod Porthcawl! Taith gerdded, gweddïau a myfyrdodau

Holy Hike  
Walk, prayers



Churches together in Porthcawl Holy Hike for Christian Aid took place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. People from churches across Porthcawl walked through the town visiting 10 churches along the way for prayers and reflections. Starting in St John's, the walkers called in to St Mary's, Our Lady Star of the

# Hike! & reflections



Trecco St Mary's



Our Lady Star of the Sea



Trinity

(All Saint's)



on Road



Te hufen / Cream Tea!



Linell derfyn / Finish line: David's!



Sea, Noddfa, Gilgal, Trinity, All Saints, Tabernacl - visited Tools for Self Reliance - Arlington Road and finished at St David's in Nottage for a well-earned afternoon tea!

Well done to you all!



## News from Margam Abbey

*Bev Gulley*

This month, we were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Fr Terry Doherty, a well-respected Priest of Margam for 13 years (2002-15). During this time, he made a valuable contribution to the Abbey and its Parishioners. He was a person of integrity who faced adversity with great fortitude. Above all, he was a man of deep faith. *'May he rest in peace and rise in glory'* (words by Chris Munday)

In May - The spotlight was on the Abbey with a successful, well-attended MU Margam Deanery Festival, followed by refreshments in The Drill Hall. Our own MU May speaker was Emma Hodges, 'Eternal Wall and My New Job'. In June the talk is on the Ty Hafan Hospice. We have celebrated a special first birthday for Eveline, who attends with her Nanna Sue every week. Jan, Brian and Bev Jones, also celebrated birthdays.

It was lovely to meet everyone at the Retired Clergy Association service. Fr Tim Llewelyn Jones presided and it was followed by a delicious lunch. The Neath Port Talbot Cancer Challenge Singers 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert was nothing short of a joy.

We have been working hard on the tourist and heritage front, holding a 'Monks of Margam' guided tour, hosting bloggers, who selected the Abbey to be part of a '*must see*' weekend in Port Talbot, the National Heritage Lottery staff, and groups including Gilgal Church and Llanwenog OAP group. In June we will be part of the 'Dramatic Heart of Wales' Heritage tourist operator showcase day.

The children's area goes from strength to strength, kept up-to-date by Liz, and we find that as many '*grown-ups*' sit down to draw as the children! Great stuff.

Forthcoming weddings: Sebastian and Rebecca and Jason and Ceri.

In June we welcome: The Boscolo Italian Group, Pennard Men's Group, Llantrisant Historical Society, Cardiff Archaeological Society, Swansea MU, Cwm Brombil Ladies WI





Forthcoming Talks and Tours, all with knowledgeable guides, followed by refreshments:

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 11 am – ‘Introducing the Vestments’ –

*A Fascinating introduction to the history and conservation of church vestments.*

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 11 am – ‘The Life and Tomb of Theodore Mansel Talbot’.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 11 am – ‘The Life and Legacy of Emily Charlotte Talbot.’

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 11 am – ‘The Monks of Margam’ – *Discover the story of Medieval Margam Abbey and the Monks of Margam.*

Our other talks include; ‘Trails and Tales’ around the graveyard (*Murder Mystery Pathos and Poison!*); Main Margam Abbey guided Talk; Stories in Stone (guided tour of Margam Stones Museum). Please contact Bev on 07530 421220 if you would like to bring a group (any size catered for), or just you. Talks can be modified to suit your group.

From the 27<sup>th</sup> May until the 9<sup>th</sup> June, there will be an exhibition in Margam Abbey in recognition of D-Day 80 with contributions from local schools. On the 9<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm, we are holding a Service of Commemoration. All are welcome.

Literary Festival on 28<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm (with Cheese and Wine) cost £5. If anyone is interested in taking part, contact Gareth Scourfield 07594 269248. Readings should be no more than 5 minutes, with a brief description of why the piece is important to you.

## **Words to ponder**

Choose to be optimistic, it feels better.

*Dalai Lama*

Don't be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.

*John D. Rockefeller*

Positive anything is better than negative nothing.

*Elbert Hubbard*

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.

*Maya Angelou*

# Chairobics



Every Monday : For 45 minutes : At 1.30pm

St Theodores Church, Kenfig Hill

£5 : Session followed with Coffee and Biscuits

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# Theo's

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## News from St Theodore's

*Margaret Griffiths*

After all the rain, we have had a few days of sunshine as I write this article. Now the grass on the lawns and the weeds are growing at pace!! I am sure though that we are all hoping for fine weather for all the outdoor events coming up.

We in St Theodore's are planning for the Kenfig Hill & Pyle Community Festival Week which takes place 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. Organised by Pyle Community Council, this week has grown and grown since it first took place nearly ten years ago. The week begins and ends with church services in St Theodore's and St James. Local charities, churches and not-for-profit organisations are provided with an allocation of raffle tickets and they receive the proceeds of all tickets sold.

Clubs, societies and other organisations put on events throughout the week catering for all ages. It has been traditional that St Theodore's hosts a concert on the Friday evening. This year, supported by the Arts Council of Wales "Night Out" scheme, we welcome the Swansea based Ellie Jones Trio, who will be playing songs from the Swing era, the Great American Songbook, a bit of jazz and songs to dance to for all those who like to jive or Lindy Hop! So, if you want to join us on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June, tickets priced £10, are available from me or in Theo's charity shop, Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill. I'm sure there will be some available on the door on the night. The concert starts at 7.00 pm in St Theodore's.

On the Tuesday evening, the 18<sup>th</sup> June, I will be singing with Sounds Familiar mixed choir in Llys Ton, Extra Care facility on Waunbant Road, Kenfig Hill. We will be entertaining the residents, many of whom will not have the opportunity to get out to other things on in the community that week.

The climax of the week is the "Party on the Pitch" on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club's ground. There will be displays, stalls, children's rides, music, an Urban Market and a classic car show! Pyle Family Breakfast and Theo's Charity Shop will be there and we will be promoting Margam Calling. All we need is fine weather! And a rest afterwards as it will be a busy few days.

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## Language or dialect?

*John Berry BEM*

It is said there are 302 Chinese Languages – many of these are in fact dialects. The majority of my Chinese friends speak Cantonese; some speak Mandarin, although these are distinctly different spoken languages the extraordinary thing is that they all write using the same characters!

My father was brought up on the Lancashire-Yorkshire border in the Pennines. Shortly after the end of WWII when petrol became more accessible we went to visit some of his relatives in a town called Earby. It was Sunday afternoon so we were sat in the parlour where I listened in amazement to my father speaking this foreign language! They, of course, were using a strong Lancashire dialect, something we never heard in Southport where I was brought up.

If you are unfamiliar with these dialects – Yorkshire and Lancashire are very similar – think of the folk song Ilkley Moor.

The song starts:

“Wheear es-ta bin sin Ah saw thee, Ah saw thee?  
On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at”,

which translates as

‘Where have you been since I saw you, I saw you?  
On Ilkley Moor without a hat

It is not generally known that this is sung to the hymn tune Cranbrook and was the tune used, predominantly in Yorkshire, for many year for the Christmas carol While Shepherds Watched. This was used for several years when I organised Carols in the Pavilion for the Mayor’s Charity. It can be great fun with repeated lines and words, once mastered.

Carols today are traditionally linked to Christmas, though there are carols associated with all seasons and were originally dances introduced by Franciscan Friars!





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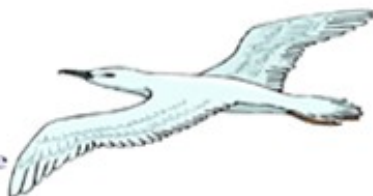
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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.  
"Chambers"

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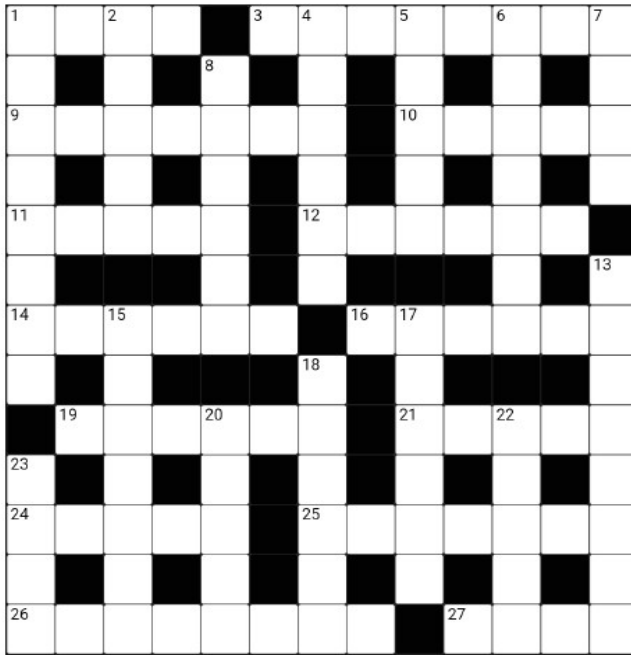
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# Quick Crossword



## Across

- 1 Open flat-bottomed boat (4)
- 3 Dutch or German spirit (8)
- 9 Type of orange (7)
- 10 Sixth sign of the zodiac (5)
- 11 Artificial silk (5)
- 12 Well matured (6)
- 14 Wretchedness (6)
- 16 Alloy of copper and tin (6)
- 19 Capital of Tasmania (6)
- 21 Renowned (5)
- 24 Implicitly understood (5)
- 25 Disinclination to move (7)
- 26 Merriment (8)
- 27 One of the gifts of the Magi (4)

## Down

- 1 Cured sliced beef (8)
- 2 Dapper (5)
- 4 Unpleasantly damp and warm (6)
- 5 Umbilicus (5)
- 6 Steal (7)
- 7 Shortly (4)
- 8 Artilleryman (6)
- 13 Promontory (8)
- 15 Indifferent to pain and pleasure (7)
- 17 Roof beam (6)
- 18 Rigorous (6)
- 20 Modify (5)
- 22 Phrase on a coat of arms (5)
- 23 Skin irritation (4)



## Quick Crossword Answer (page29)

1	P	U	N	T		3	S	C	H	5	N	A	6	P	P	7	S
	A		A		8	G		L		A		U		O			
9	S	A	T	S	U	M	A		10	V	I	R	G	O			
	T		T		N		M		E		L		N				
11	R	A	Y	O	N		12	M	E	L	L	O	W				
	A				E		Y					I		13	H		
14	M	I	15	S	E	R	Y		16	B	R	O	N	Z	E		
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26	H	I	L	A	R	I	T	Y		27	G	O	L	D			

### Why was Larry Happy?

As every Tom, Dick and Harry knows, there are many expressions in the English language that refer to individual people. Sometimes those people really did exist.

Hobson's choice - Thomas Hobson ran a successful horse-rental business in Cambridge in the early 17th century. His customers had to take the horse that he offered them - which was usually the one that had rested the longest - not the one that took their fancy. That is why Hobson's choice means no choice at all.

As for Larry in 'as happy as Larry', it is generally believed that the man in question is Larry Foley, a 19th century boxer from New Zealand. Foley rarely lost a fight in his 30-year career, so why wouldn't he have been happy! There is also a boxing link to the phrase the real McCoy. Kid McCoy, real name Norman Selby, had so many imitators in fairground boxing booths up and down the United States that he took to calling himself 'Kid the real McCoy'.

Tom, Dick and Harry were not specific people. The three names have always been in common use among ordinary people so Tom, Dick and Harry came to represent Everyman.

# BELLEVIEW

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Monday: Mass at 12.00

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***

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## Pause for Thought



*Anonymous*

*Grab yourself a cuppa and curl up with the Good Book!*

## Margam Ministry Area

### Clergy:

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### Area Wardens:

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Mr David-Lloyd Jones 07747 151205 [davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com)

### Treasurer:

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### Church subwardens:

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**A Visual Snapshot  
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