



Margam

Ministry Area Magazine



September 2024



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New term, new adventures!



Off we go again for the start of the new season.

September is a time for new beginnings and new adventures.

We particularly wish our young people well as they take their first steps on their next challenge - a new class, a new school, a new environment or a new job, grab those opportunities and enjoy!

This issue is once again jam-packed full. We welcome several new reporters and contributors bringing a variety of voices and stories. There's sadness at our recent losses, particularly Malcolm Wills of Margam Abbey and Fr Keith, a stalwart supporter in Porthcawl, but also celebration with Canon Hanford's 60th anniversary of priesthood, Vanessa Evans' Community Award, Open Churches and lots of summer fayres and fetes. The weather may not always have been the best, but it certainly hasn't dampened our spirits.

I'll leave you in peace to catch up on all the news. And I look forward to your contributions for the October issue (to me by 20th September 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: Canon Richard Hanford's Diamond Jubilee of Priesthood at Margam Abbey

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

Keep up with Ministry Area news and updates:

On the brand new website: www.margam.org.uk

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Dear Friends,

Fr. Jonathan

September can be a time for new beginnings. For some the new school term or university year – for others, perhaps a new job or a new challenge. New beginnings can commence a new adventure or a new journey where God can lead us into the unknown, in order to make God's world a better place.

As we enter September, it is also the time when we begin thinking about Harvest and what it means for us as a worshipping community. The word Harvest comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *hærfest*, "Autumn". It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. Harvest is a time for thanksgiving for all that God provides. As we read in Psalm 104;

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it... 'He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate – bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart, oil to make faces shine, and bread that sustains the heart.'

Likewise, the Gospels are full of allusion to agriculture and harvest. At the time of Christ it is estimated that around 90% of a person's time would have been spent producing and preparing food. Since the very early days the Christian Church has historically played a key role in reinforcing the connection between people and the land, particularly through the Harvest Festival which really came into its own during the Victorian era.

Eating food, however, is a common human experience to all, even though the type of food we consume and how readily available it is to us may vary widely. But we all eat. In our society the meals on our table will have been brought there through the contribution of many different people working in a variety of environments. This food chain typically involves farmers or those engaged with fishing, processors, retailers and those who purchase and prepare the food to eat. So, it is important that we reconnect with these realities.

Our harvest celebrations are an opportunity to offer to God the contribution we make in bringing food to the table; to give thanks and pray for others in the chain upon whom we are dependent; and above all to praise God who starts off each chain by creating the

sun's radiance and giving life to all living things.

Each of our churches across the Ministry Area will be holding Harvest Festival services (please see the weekly bulletins in your local church for details). These will involve people bringing food donations and sometimes toiletries and other essential provisions to give to food banks or other support agencies, such as community pantries and homeless charities. All these acts of charity help make God's world a better place.

If you can't join us for any of our harvest celebrations, then there are some simple ways for you to participate at home such as saying a thank you prayer. We can start with the food we need to eat each day. However, for lots of reasons, not everyone has enough, and this will be especially true this year in light of the ongoing rises in the cost of living. So, saying thank you for our food is important. We might thank the person who cooked it, the people in the shops where we bought the ingredients, or even trace it back to our hard-working farmers who grew and harvested the crops. A good harvest brings a smile to farmers and their hard work keeps our nation fed, so let's celebrate this Harvest with thanks and gratitude.

A Harvest Prayer

Loving God,

Thank you for the many ways in which you provide for us:

Food, family, friendship,

Housing, health, happiness,

And ways to use our time and talents.

We lift to you too the ways in which we remain in need of these things.

God of generosity,

May your kingdom come.

A Prayer from the Trussell Trust

Harvest Blessings

Dear Friends,

Rev Dr Duncan Walker

There is something about July and August which slows everything down. In one way it is an opportunity to take a break, but it is also a little worrying as we lose some of our drive. September is the antidote. There is something about the schools going back which injects energy and drive into us all. It won't be long before we turn our eyes towards the great festival of Harvest. No sooner will services and Harvest Suppers end, when we will turn our gaze to the great times of Advent and Christmas.

I know we complain about being busy, but there is something wonderful and much needed about living and planning events which celebrate our relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. This is a time to look back whilst planning for the future. So much of the shape of the Church year comes from its relationship with farming. Any farmer who is busy harvesting is equally committed to trying to understand what is happening and planning accordingly.

It is exactly the same in the Church as we surge forward into September and beyond. The great question is whether we are too fixed in our plans, rather than being prepared to be guided by the Holy Spirit. After all new times call for new strategies, and all this takes energy.

September is such a great tonic for us all because sun screen, long days on the beach and sand sandwiches can't go on for ever. A new month calls for new directions and a commitment to those ways which have served us so well in the past.

Almost three thousand years ago King Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes. He explained that life separated from God is meaningless, and that wisdom has its limitations. He feels that we should respect and fear God whilst enjoying His blessings. His views on time have long been cherished:

**For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3 verses 1-8.

If we could add a sentiment, it might be that this September and beyond is a time to welcome the Holy Spirit as He fills us with the love of God, and shares the blessings of the Resurrection with us and our communities. It's a blessing in time.

*With Christian Greetings,
Duncan*

Remembering Fr Keith

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of the Rev Keith Andrews. Fr Keith was ordained 42 years ago and served his Curacy in the Parish of Penarth with Lavernock. This was followed by many years of service in and around Bridgend, first as Vicar of Nantymoel with Wyndham, then Rector of Coychurch and finally Vicar of Caerau, near Maesteg. From 1989-1993, Fr Keith served as Area Dean of Bridgend. Since his retirement in 2012, he has helped out in many Churches across the Diocese, and we were very grateful to welcome him to our Porthcawl churches in recent times.

Fr Keith will be missed by all who knew him and appreciated his gentle, kind and faithful ministry. We send our condolences to his son, Fr Ben, and all Fr Keith's family and close friends.



... OUT OF THE BAG

John Berry BEM

A friend of many years had moved away from Porthcawl soon after her husband, then her mother, died. She emailed to say she would be staying in the area for a short time and asking if we could meet for lunch or tea one day; she had copied into the email a mutual friend. I have known these two ladies thirty and forty years respectively.

It was eventually agreed we would meet for afternoon tea at my house where, on the allotted day, they arrived within a few minutes of each other. I had prepared some savouries and cakes, so asked if they would like tea or coffee to drink. The friend of forty years said she would like Earl Grey Tea, but just to give her a tea bag and jug of water. My friend of a mere thirty years laughingly said she was waiting for the list of teas on offer! I went into the kitchen and returned carrying a small tin. There was a certain amount of laughter and comments about no tea bags to be found in this house, then a gasp as it was seen the tin was from Fortnum and Mason.



Over the years different groups and individual visitors wanting to be helpful have asked, “Where are the tea bags”? I have almost never used tea bags – or instant coffee – yet, ironically, the one time I have used and really enjoyed tea bags was on the railway in India!

“As the train departed - right on the minute - we were brought a bottle of drinking water. Half an hour into the journey they started bringing afternoon tea, which comprised a warm pasty (I had ordered vegetarian meals) and a cake. Tea was an individual flask of hot water, a tea kit (three tea bags, creamer, sugar, stirrer, wet wipes and paper napkins) and a paper cup. I had already taken to drinking black tea, so did not use the powdered creamer and sugar in the Tea Kit. We were awakened at 6.30 with morning tea after which breakfast was served. Food and sleeping facilities were all included in the single fare of

£15.00 for this sixteen hours, eight hundred and sixty two miles long journey from Mumbai to Delhi.” (extract from Travels with the Red Triangle - 2007).

My Indian friends have been quick to tell me that tea bags are a British institution, they do not contain tea, only tea dust! When I inquired of the train manager about the tea bags he told me they were not for sale and made specially for the train companies using a fine grain tea leaf. When Bertie found me on the train at Delhi and was leading me out of the carriage, the Train Manager suddenly appeared to wish me a pleasant stay and quietly dropped a packet of tea bags in my pocket!

Back to my visitors in Porthcawl – I made a pot of Earl Grey tea that was very much enjoyed and we had a good time catching up on our news.

Somewhat to my chagrin, Fortnum and Mason took the major credit for an excellent cup of tea!

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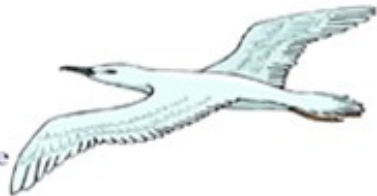
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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”

Quoting the Bible and didn't know it

The decline in biblical literacy in recent times is well documented and yet the Bible still has extraordinary staying power in our everyday conversations. We all use phrases or words from the Bible often without realising it.

Here are some common phrases with Biblical origins.

A drop in the bucket – Isaiah 40:15

A thorn in the flesh – II Corinthians 12:7

Forbidden fruit – Genesis 2:17

Eat, drink and be merry – Luke 12:19

The powers that be – Romans 13:1

The handwriting on the wall – Daniel 5

Holier than thou – Isaiah 65:5

Woe is me! – Isaiah 6:5

Like a lamb to slaughter – Isaiah 53:7

Do not throw pearls before swine – Matthew 7:6

Fire and Brimstone – Genesis 19:24

Can a leopard change its spots? – Jeremiah 13:23

The skin of our teeth – Job 19:20

A land flowing with milk and honey – Exodus 3:8

Feet of clay – Daniel 2:33-34

Fly in the ointment – Ecclesiastes 10:1

Salt of the earth – Matthew 5:13

Spare the rod – spoil the child – Proverbs 13:24

By the sweat of your brow – Genesis 3:19

Better to give than to receive – Acts 20:35

Let he who is without sin cast the first stone – John 8:7

Nothing new under the sun – Ecclesiastes 1:9

Did any on this list surprise you?

What other popular phrases do you that originate from the Bible?

Open Churches Events at St James' Church, Pyle

James Thomas

St James's Church in Pyle, a Grade I listed building with a rich history dating back to the Norman period, hosted an "Open Churches" weekend on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th July 2024. The event, part of a broader initiative by the Margam Ministry Area, encouraged community engagement and showcased the area's ecclesiastical heritage.

During the weekend, visitors to St James' had the opportunity to view historical records and church registers, offering a glimpse into the local heritage preserved within this ancient church. In addition to these exhibits, the event featured a display of hand-made crafts, along with preserves and home-baked cakes available for purchase, providing a festive atmosphere for attendees.

A highlight of the weekend was a wonderful concert held on the evening of Saturday 27th July, featuring performances by Josef Gray and talented young Welsh singers from the LARS (Loud Applause Rising Stars) programme. The concert was well-attended and received enthusiastically, contributing to a memorable evening for all present.

The "Open Churches" events, organised by the Margam Ministry Area, aim to be a recurring feature, with each event spotlighting a different church within the area. This initiative seeks to foster community spirit and preserve the cultural and historical narratives embedded within these religious sites. Community members and visitors are encouraged to stay tuned for upcoming events in the series.

St James's Church, with its storied past including a significant rebuilding in 1471 and subsequent restorations, stands as a testament to the enduring heritage of the Pyle area. These events not only celebrate this rich history but also engage the community in its ongoing story.



Something to ponder

submitted by Judith Shawe

A lady said to the Priest, "I'm not coming to Church anymore." He said, "May I ask why??" She said, "I see people on their phones during the service, some are gossiping, some just aren't living right, they are all just hypocrites."

The Priest was silent, then said, "OK, but can you do something for me before you make your final decision?" She said, "What's that?" He said, "Take a glass of water and walk around the Church twice and don't let any water fall out the glass." She said, "Yes I can do that." She came back and said "It's done."

He asked her 3 questions:

1. Did you see anybody on their phone?
2. Did you see anybody gossiping?
3. Was anybody living wrong?

She said, "I didn't see anything because I was so focused on this glass, so the water wouldn't fall."

He told her, "When you come to Church, you should be just that focused on God, so that you don't fall. That's why Jesus said 'Follow me.' He did not say follow Christians. Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God. Let it be determined by how focused YOU are on GOD."

Zero Waste Week

Every year, millions of people commit to reducing their landfill waste for a week during September — saving money, preserving resources and having fun in the process. The campaign was started in 2008 and information can be found on the Zero Waste website (<https://www.zerowasteweek.co.uk/>)

The aim is to rethink 'rubbish' as a valuable resource. If we all make small changes they'll lead to more sustainable consumption patterns and help reduce landfill.

Why not start by making a list before you go food shopping to help avoid impulse buying and buying food that you'll end up throwing away.



News from All Saints

Pam Rossini

July and August haven't been very newsworthy months with lots of parishioners spending time away with families and some lucky people enjoying leisurely cruises on the high seas. The exam results have just come out and our young students will be breathing a sigh of relief or a sob of sorrow depending on their results. Uni lies ahead for some or perhaps a year of travel depending on circumstances. Travel does broaden the mind and gives an insight into other peoples lives and also the vastness and beauty of the earth.

I remember visiting a village in Zambia. There was desperate poverty but the children, naked or in rags, were happily unaware of it. I had given away all the usual bags of sweets and crayons and only had an almost-empty tic tac container to give to this one little fellow. He was as delighted with it as any youngster here would be with a special gift. His needs were little, a young innocent trod lightly on this earth. A world away from this and at the end of July on a TV shopping channel, there were ideas for Christmas presents! My daughter told me she'd met up with her dear friend in April who had already sorted out all her Christmas presents. Maybe there was a good reason - I don't know, but it got me thinking of the knotty question "What to buy those who have everything?" Certainly that nearly empty packet of tic tacs would not do.

So, what's the plan? I buy for family and friends from ages 2 to 90. The older ones are always happy with boxes of biscuits, chocolates and bed socks. The youngest toddlers are into dinosaurs so I'll be seeking out something in that vein. The middle group will have wool sweater, PJs, or dressing gowns. Which brings me to the most difficult ones - maybe a donation to a charity and a small gift, which is where that packet of tic tacs comes in - always handy especially when a cough engulfs you just as the sermon starts in church!

Briefly back to church, a lovely Croeso Tea was had with Fr Graham playing beautifully. Cakes, music, friends - what more can we want. More concerts to come in September, watch out for the dates.

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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.



News from St David's

Pat Parry

Well, we are now in autumn and the nights are drawing in. Children have gone back to school and choirs will soon be preparing for Christmas concerts. Congratulations to all the children who have worked hard and done well in their A level and GCSE exams.

Two couples living in Nottage were married on the same day and will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversaries in early September. What a great achievement for Marian and Peter Millis, and Jenny and Graham Cross. Many congratulations to you. I believe you will be receiving cards from the King.

We were sorry to hear that Fr. Keith Andrews had died in August. Following his retirement, he stepped in on many occasions to lead the Sunday services in St David's. Our condolences are extended to his family.

We are restarting the collections for the Porthcawl Food Bank which is run from the YMCA. This had lapsed during Covid. Nonperishable food may be left in the purple buckets in each of the Porthcawl churches. Tins should preferably have ring pulls. If anyone would prefer to donate money, this should be given to Judith Shaw to buy whatever is needed at the time.

And something to look forward to:

Saturday September 7th **Porthcawl Male Voice Choir Annual concert**
at All Saints Church 7pm Tickets £10 at door

Did you know?

2 Sept 1666 - the Great Fire of London begins in Pudding Lane and rages for 5 days

4 Sept 1962 - the Beatles start their first recording session at EMI's Abbey Road Studios, London

11 Sept 1915 - Britain's first Women's Institute opens in Wales

23 Sept 1848 - Chewing gum is made commercially for the first time

28 Sept 1745 - 'God Save the King' is sung for the first time at London's Drury Lane Theatre

News from St John's

Diane Jackson



Here we are with another summer nearly over, the days getting shorter, the school holidays coming to an end and a new school year ahead. For the little ones just starting school a future stretches before them just as it does for those who have left school for pastures new.

Looking back, July saw our Annual Summer Fayre taking place as usual on the Green. The morning started very blustery and with some showers, which resulted in saying goodbye to some of the gazebos! However by lunchtime, although still windy the sun came out and so did the crowds. As usual there was a variety of stalls and entertainment with something for everyone.

The Fayre is not just about the stalls and entertainment but also about people visiting the church. One new feature, which did draw people in, was the organ recitals in the church with Frs Jonathan, Graham and Wayne playing, as well as Matthew and Liz. It was good to see people enter the church and stay to hear the music which was truly a delight to listen to. Hopefully all who entered also were impressed with the lovely flower arrangements dedicated to remembering the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Thank you to Sandra and her wonderful team for putting on such a splendid and moving display.



The whole event does not just happen. It takes many months of thought and much organisation for it all to take place. Our thanks to Jonathan and Robbie and all involved in the planning for another successful day. The final figure has yet to be announced but it is believed to be in the region of £8500. Very well done everyone.

During August we were delight to see Sandra Phillips returning for a visit both to church and the Friday coffee morning. She looked well and it was interesting to hear all that had happened to her since her move to Newtown at the start of the year.



At the end of this month Diane and Gareth Lewis celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Very many congratulations to them. As part of their celebrations, we are going to be treated to a special Friday Coffee morning!. More of that in next month's magazine.

Looking ahead, the Harvest Lunch will be held in the School Room on Sunday 6th October, cost £12 per person. Iris Hickman is collecting names and, as places are limited, if you want to attend please contact her. To secure your place, it is requested that you pay in advance of the day. Please note that unless someone else can be found to take your place, any monies paid will be non-refundable.



St John's Summer Fayre - Saturday 6th July

Robbie Owen


The sun came out, the people came, and the stalls, refreshments and entertainment were all fabulous.

We are so grateful to all who helped and contributed to make our day go so fantastically well - Dunraven Windows, Print Centre Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan Meat Provisions, Hats The One, Hi Tide and everyone who advertises in our programme and donated to our raffle.

Our special thanks go to all who helped in our kitchen and looked after our stalls, as well, of course, as all who came out to support us.

You contribute greatly to help us raise much needed funds to maintain our most ancient and iconic building.

We hope to see you all again next year!



Porthcawl Foodbank

Judith Shawe (01656 786446)

Purple buckets have appeared in the three Porthcawl churches (thanks to Pat Parry). Please fill with donations for Foodbank, although I'll still happily accept cash donations. Items you might like to give :-

- Toiletries (particularly shower gel and shampoo)
- Tins (ring pull preferred): fruit, vegetables, meat ,fish, soup
- Sugar, tea, coffee, hot chocolate (that can be made with hot water), powdered milk
- Rice, pasta, breakfast cereal, jam, marmalade, crisps and biscuits.

Please, NO fresh food.

Remember, some clients have limited cooking facilities, some clients have no access to a kitchen at all.

The September Croeso Tea will have a Harvest theme, please 'Bring a tin or packet for Foodbank'.

I'm happy to answer any questions and I'm definitely happy to take your money! Thank you for your generosity...

Croeso Tea : what is it?

Judith Shawe

The Thursday Group of the Mothers' Union in Porthcawl (with support and love of the Tuesday Group) hosts a tea and cake event in All Saints on a Saturday every month. It's called the Croeso Tea, as everyone is very welcome to come and enjoy tea/coffee and homemade cake in the company of others. It's a chance to meet up with old friends, and make new ones, a chance to welcome visitors to the church family. We ask only for a donation.

Every other tea benefits a charity. To date we've supported Sandville, 2Wish, Guide Dogs and The Glam Music service. Other teas' donations go to MU funds, which support MU charities like the caravan the MU have in Trecco supplying holiday breaks for disadvantaged families.

Croeso Tea is now well into its second year and is growing. Bring your friends and neighbours and enjoy a relaxed afternoon. There is sometimes a mini-concert to enjoy before the tea too.

See you all soon - September 14th at 2pm. Be there or be square!!

Newton Nottage Mothers' Union



Judith Shawe

August has been a busy month for us. We enjoyed a very informative and moving talk from Dawn Tilt on the 2Wish charity for bereaved families. Dawn told us of the work the charity does to ease the pain and stress felt by families who lose a child. Thank you Dawn. We have donated money from one of the Croeso Teas to this amazing cause.

Congratulations to Margaret and Merian who celebrated their 90th birthdays this month - well done ladies! Lovely to see Sue and Joan back this month - both have had hip surgery, but that hasn't stopped them from coming to meetings. Good for you girls!

The Thursday Group hosted the monthly Croeso Tea when we were entertained(?) by Fr Graham on the organ. It was a truly great afternoon with lots of lovely music and lots of people, which was just as well as there was lots of cake! Donations raised £376 which Fr Graham has given to The Glam Youth Services, an organisation introducing children to the joy of playing an instrument and playing music together. Thank you, Fr Graham, for your generosity of time and talent.

Please note: the September Croeso Tea is on the 14th not the 7th. It'll be a Harvest Tea, so please bring something for the Foodbank bucket .

The October Croeso Tea is on Saturday, October 5th when we'll enjoy a flute and piano mini concert at 2pm before tea at 3pm. All donations will go to Cystic Fibrosis charity.

Our next MU meeting will welcome Dave Kitchen author and broadcaster - he will talk on his book 'The Bible in 10' in which every book of the Bible is condensed into a 10 minute read! Everyone is very welcome on Tuesday September 3rd at 2pm in All Saints Hall.

Enjoy what's left of the summer.....

Judith



The Family Breakfast

Jan Battrick

It seems incredible, looking back, that the Family Breakfast has now been open for eighteen months. In that time it has grown from strength to strength and now includes a well stocked community pantry as well as the opportunity for a hot breakfast, a takeaway sandwich lunch or just a cake and coffee each Saturday morning. This has all been made possible by the generous donations of local businesses and supermarkets as well as those of individuals which help to sustain us.

Over the summer we were grateful to the pupils of Cynffig Comprehensive who collected a huge amount of food, as well as holding a cake sale to raise money to support us. We also owe thanks to Cefn Methodist Chapel who held a coffee morning to raise money on our behalf.

Stalls at Kenfig Hill and Pyle's "Party on the Pitch" as well as the Church Summer Fair helped to raise our profile and we are now regularly seeing between 60 and 80 people each week. We have also increased our number of volunteers to cope with this extra demand.

We were all delighted when one of our volunteers, Mrs Vanessa Evans, was awarded a "Pride of Wales" award for her work in the community. Vanessa, who is one of the original volunteers in Family Breakfast, is also a warden in St. James', co-ordinates the Cornelly Horticultural Show and organises "Christmas Sparkle" each year, collecting Christmas toys for underprivileged children. Her well-deserved award was presented in a glittering ceremony at the Brangwyn Hall in Swansea. In true Cinderella style, she swapped her evening dress for a Family Breakfast apron the following Saturday!

The successful school uniform "Give Away" that has been running for the last few weeks reminds us that, as Autumn approaches, we shall soon be adding homemade soups to our takeaway lunches.

Since its tentative beginnings eighteen months ago, the Family Breakfast has now become a fixture in many people's lives. We should like to thank everyone who has contributed to its success.

News from St James' and St Mary Magdalene

Vanessa Evans

St James' church in Pyle held it's Open Days on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th July and during those two days we welcomed many people into our lovely 14th century church.

Parish registers and records were on display and this attracted many local people as well as visitors to the area. Crafts, preserves and home baked cakes were all available with tea/ coffee and Welsh cakes being served all day.

Members of St James' and St Mary Magdalene worked together to make the Open Days event such a huge success by welcoming people to St James', spreading awareness of the history of the church and also in raising donations for church funds. We are extremely grateful for the Christian fellowship shown by so many people from both churches.

On the Saturday evening, we had a wonderful concert in the church which featured Josef Gray and other young Welsh singers from LARS (Loud Applause Rising Stars) which gave everyone within that packed audience the opportunity to hear the very best of Wales' young talent. It was a memorable evening and a great ending to our Open Days event.

We hope they will return to sing for us again during Advent – watch this space for details!

We wish everyone a healthy and peaceful time during the season's change from Summer into Autumn.

Pyle and Kenfig Mothers' Union

Meryl Greenway

Our annual afternoon tea was held on Friday 2nd August and was a huge success. We were able to raise over £350 and this will be donated to the Mothers' Union Caravan at Trecco Bay.

It was heartwarming to see so many people and we all had a very enjoyable afternoon with lots of lovely sandwiches and cakes.

Thank you to all who supported and helped make this event such a memorable occasion. We look forward to the next one!



News from St Theodore's

Margaret Griffiths

Today has been more like autumn than summer. It really hasn't been much of a summer, has it? I do hope that all our Ministry Area Churches who have held outdoor events over the last couple of months have been blessed with fine weather. These events are such a vital money raising opportunity as well as bringing communities together. I have managed to get to a couple of Bev Gulley's interesting talks in Margam Abbey - I would recommend them to anyone interested in the history of Margam Abbey.

St Theodore's hosted the Margam Calling BBQ back in July. We were very fortunate in having a beautiful sunny evening. Members of the St Theodore's congregation, attendees of Margam Calling services, volunteers from Theo's charity shop and neighbours of the church were all invited. The food was delicious and plentiful - many thanks



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to James Thomas and his team of helpers.

A good time was had by all.

You may have noticed from some of my previous articles that I do have an interest in history. A few things recently have made me think about the past! I am in email correspondence with a lady who is descended from the first curate-in-charge of St Theodore's – Rev. John Bangor Davies. This lady's great grandfather, Jacob Ware, married one of the Rev J B Davies' daughters. Jacob also became a priest. It seems though that he was a convert to Anglicanism, as I have some documents showing that others in his family belonged to Moriah Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church, which used to stand just down the hill from St Theodore's.

On a recent Wednesday morning, we had just finished coffee following the morning Mass, when two gentlemen came into church. The elder had apparently been a choirboy in St Theodore's back in the 1960s during the ministry of Rev. Jones-Davies. He remembered his "audition" by Mr. T. J. Daniels, the organist and choir leader at the time – he had to sing a verse of "We plough the fields and scatter". More importantly for a young boy, I am sure, he received half a crown for turning out to sing at weddings. This gentleman lived in Pyle at the time and walked to St Theodore's for services, twice every Sunday!

It must be two years now since the children and youth choirs, Da Capo and Crescendo have been using St Theodore's as their rehearsal space. They will be appearing in concert at the church on September 13th.

I couldn't finish without mentioning that our choir leader, Margaret Phillips, celebrated a big birthday recently. Her daughter had organised a wonderful lunch for family and friends and, of course, we had to sing happy birthday in church.

HAPPY
Birthday



News from Margam Abbey

Wendy Greensmith

July and August have been busy months for us at Margam Abbey. At the beginning of July, we had a joyous marriage blessing for Jenny and Dyggdu. The weather was kind to the happy couple as they left the Abbey on the back of a vintage tractor!

Bev Gulley gave a most interesting and informative talk on the life of Miss Emily Charlotte Talbot which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all those in attendance.

July 15th saw our Mothers' Union enjoy an outing to Our Lady of Margam catholic church. We were given a wonderful warm welcome, accompanied by a superb selection of afternoon cakes, followed by an interesting talk from Father Andre, the resident priest.

On the 27th July, the Abbey had the honour of hosting the Diamond Jubilee of priesthood for Canon Richard Hanford. An amazing achievement for such a dedicated priest. The day was a wonderful occasion enjoyed by all who attended. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, was present along with a number of other priests. The sun shone, a reception in the Orangery followed the service and the Abbey is grateful to have had the privilege of being part of such an incredible event. Our heartfelt congratulations go to Canon Hanford.

All at the Abbey were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Malcolm Wills on July 15th.

Malcolm served as long-term Head Verger at the Abbey. He had an amazing knowledge of all things related to the Abbey and gave his time so freely and willingly to all he met. Malcolm's wife, Ann, passed away in February this year. They both worked tirelessly for the good of the Abbey and its community. They will be very sadly missed. Malcolm's funeral took place on August 9th with a high number of people in attendance.

An organ recital took place on August 8th, the organist, Efisio Aresu, is at present sub-organist at All Saints Anglican church in Rome. He is a very talented young man and his recital was magnificent.



Sian Ashton led a stained-glass workshop during August, a most interesting and fun event.

The Theatrical History Tour group put on 2 performances depicting the visit of King John to our area.

The children's craft corner continues to be very popular with our younger visitors and a big thanks goes out to Liz for all her hard work in that area.

The annual Summer Fayre takes place on Saturday 31st August.

August 28th will see the wedding of Edward and Amy and we all send them our love and best wishes for a wonderful day and a very happy marriage.

September 7th and 8th will see Bev Gulley hosting tours of the Stones museum on behalf of CADW.

Bev will also give a talk on Miss Emily Charlotte Talbot on September 21st, this coincides with the anniversary of Miss Talbot's death.

Finally, a huge thanks to all our volunteers whose help to keep our church a place of welcome and calm to all our visitors is greatly appreciated.

CADW Open Doors Weekend

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of September - Margam Abbey

Saturday 7th September

Abbey Church 11am - 'The Visit of King John'. Discover the history and drama of the medieval life of Margam Abbey and King John on the road to Magna Carta. Meet medieval monks and learn about their lives and the Cistercian ideal.

Margam Stones Museum Tours - 10am, 12pm, 2pm.

Sunday 8th September

Margam Stones Museum Tours - 10am, 12pm, 2pm.,
11am - Trails and Tales - A Walking history of deaths and burials around Margam Abbey Graveyard. 'Murder, Mayhem, Pathos and Poison! (Suitable attire and stout shoes as the ground is uneven).

Free Parking at front of Abbey Church. Refreshments Available.

For enquiries contact Bev Gulley on 07530 421220.

***He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty***

(Luke 1: 52,53 NRSV)

Loving creator God and Lord of all
We know that you hold close to your heart
The hungry and the poor,
The vulnerable and the marginalised.
You bring down powerful people from their thrones.
You invite us to join you in your global mission
to bring about justice and equality, dignity and love.
You challenge our choices and our lifestyles.
You challenge our vision and our hearing.
As we daily make our selfish choices to buy this or that luxury,
You see those whose choices for the basics
have been taken from them.
As we dither about what we can do about fossil fuels
You see those whose homes are being washed away.
As we debate about whether gender justice really matters
You see women who are excluded from owning land.
As we look for the best of education for our children,
you see those who never get to survive infancy.
Lord open our eyes and ears to see the world that you see.
To hear the voices that you hear
To listen to the people who ache for justice
To rage with them
To hope with them
To trust and work with them for a better tomorrow.
Even as you fill the hungry with good things
May we not be among those who are sent away with empty hands.
In Jesus name we pray.
Amen

(Christian Aid – Northern Ireland)

Submitted by Fr Jonathan

Living Independently

Adrian Warner

There is a block of flats that would be more convenient for me; nearer to a disabled relative. But the lease has a clause that a prospective lease purchaser must provide a doctor's letter to say that they are capable of independent living.

My first problem is that I haven't seen a doctor for months so how would they know. Then the realisation came that to get such a letter would be dependent on the telephone, the receptionist (and the doctor), a word processor and printer, the bank to transfer the up-front £45 fee and the postman to bring it.

Until it comes I will continue as ever, dependent on the workers in the electricity, water and food industries, the waste disposal and sewage teams, train drivers and signallers, bus drivers, police and the road workers. Shops, (food and charity), library, swimming pool and health suite, the media workers and it would be impossible to name them all. Many thousands perhaps.

Also I am dependent on the rest of humanity to restrain from destroying the planet by further polluting the air, soil and water or destroying it by bombs. I depend on all my kitchen and household appliances. I depend on the many good people around me.

There seems to be no hope of living independently. Maybe there is a colloquial restricted interpretation!

A little light relief

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both. As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, 'Oh, my God! Help me!'

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, 'I thought you didn't believe in Me!'

'Come on God, give me a break!!' the man pleaded. 'Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!'



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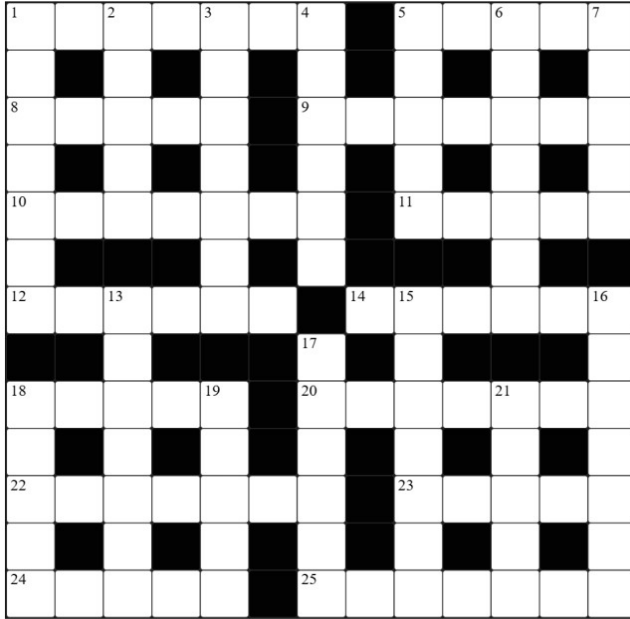
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Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Mapped (7)
- 5 Church songs (5)
- 8 Part of a shoe (5)
- 9 Paint solvent (7)
- 10 Germfree (7)
- 11 Tales (5)
- 12 Torn (6)
- 14 Circus tent (3,3)
- 18 Young pigeon (5)
- 20 Blow up (7)
- 22 Rider's footrest (7)
- 23 Desert haven (5)
- 24 Bullion bar (5)
- 25 Voted into office (7)

Down

- 1 Curries (anag) (7)
- 2 Copious (5)
- 3 Rotary motor (7)
- 4 Shilly-shally (6)
- 5 Hirsute (5)
- 6 Tower on a mosque (7)
- 7 Feudal subjects (5)
- 13 Raining heavily (7)
- 15 Get better (7)
- 16 Ironed (7)
- 17 Folk (6)
- 18 Japanese cold rice dish (5)
- 19 Soft, flat hat (5)
- 21 Commencement (5)

Quick Crossword Answer (page29)

1	C	H	2	A	R	3	T	E	4	D		5	H	6	Y	M	N	7	S
	R		M		U			I		A		I			E				
8	U	P	P	E	R			9	T	H	I	N	N	E	R				
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10	S	T	E	R	I	L	E			11	Y	A	R	N	S				
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12	R	I	13	P	P	E	D			14	B	I	G	T	O	16	P		
			O					17	P		M								R
18	S	Q	U	A	B			19		20	E	X	P	L	O	D	E		
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22	S	T	I	R	R	U	P			23	O	A	S	I	S				
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24	I	N	G	O	T			25	E	L	E	C	T	E	D				

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ALL SAINTS, Porthcawl

Sunday: Mass at 08.00 & 10.00
Monday: Mass at 12.00
Wednesday: Mass at 11.00

MARGAM ABBEY, Margam

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.15
Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

ST DAVID'S, Nottage

Sunday: Mass at 09.30 & 17.00
Thursday: Mass at 10.30

ST JAMES, Pyle

Sunday: Mass at 11.15
Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Newton

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.15
Evensong at **18.00**
Tuesday & Friday: Mass at 10.30

ST MARY MAGDALENE, Maudlam

Sunday: Mass at 09.30
Wednesday: Mass at 11.00

ST THEODORE'S, Kenfig Hill

Sunday: Mass at 10.00
Family Mass 1st Sunday of the month
Margam Calling - 5.30pm every other Sunday
see www.margamcalling.org.uk for details
Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

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

Pause for Thought

Do Good

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley



Margam Ministry Area

Clergy:

Fr Jonathan Durley (*MA Leader*) 01656 670148 jonathandurley@churchinwales.org.uk
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

Reader:

Mrs Grace Wylde 07966 083196 gwylde16@outlook.com

Chair of the Ministry Area Council:

Mrs Wendy Xerri 07752 487467 wendy@xerri.wales

Area Wardens:

Mr Gareth Baker 07791 367918 gareth.baker@acuitylaw.com
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

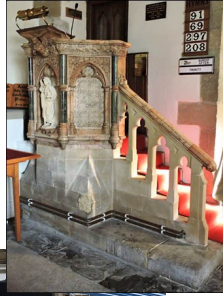
Church subwardens:

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

Hall Bookings

Parish Hall, Pyle	Sue Roberts	01656 741030
All Saints, Porthcawl	porthcawllallsaintshall@gmail.com	
St David, Nottage	Clive Edwards	01656784698
St John the Baptist, Newton	Ann Howells	07837 406397
Margam Abbey Hall	Bev Gulley	07530 421220
St Theodore's, Kenfig Hill	sttheodoreskh@hotmail.com	

A Visual Snapshot of the Ministry Area





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