



Margam

Ministry Area Magazine



May 2024



Neath Port Talbot Cancer Challenge Singers

*25th
Anniversary
Concert*

Margam Abbey
7pm, May 18th 2024

Tenor: Trystan Llŷr Griffiths

Soprano: Adele O'Neill

Musical Director: Geraint Williams

Guest Accompanist: Jeff Howard

Tickets: £15 or £20 for Patrons

Tickets available at Trenberth
Opticians, Neath or from choir
members or [ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)



Spring is in the air!



Spring really is in the air, a little bit of sunshine makes the world of difference, doesn't it...even if it is still pretty chilly!

This issue of the magazine is packed with fresh and lively content. We have news and views from across the Ministry Area, quite a few concerts and dates for your diary and congratulations and thank-yous a plenty.

The photographs of Averil and Bob Williams's Diamond Wedding celebration at Margam Abbey tell a joyous tale. And the surprise visit from Roy Noble and his wife to The Family Breakfast was the icing on the cake to acknowledge the recent presentation of two local Citizenship Awards. Congratulations one and all!

I hope the photo on the front cover makes you smile. For me, it is an echo of the fun and friendship across our Ministry Area. Keep those photos coming, I try to include as many as I can, if not in the printed magazine then certainly online.

Thank you to everyone who contributes whether on a regular basis or once in a while. It really is appreciated and I know our readers enjoy this eclectic mix of articles. Please continue to send things in. For the June issue, the copy deadline is 20th May, thank you.

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: Easter Bonnets at the Newton Nottage Mothers' Union afternoon tea!

Keep up with Ministry Area news and updates:

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

And remember the Facebook pages too:

www.facebook.com/PorthcawlParish

www.facebook.com/TheParishOfKenfigHill

www.facebook.com/MargamAbbey/

www.facebook.com/pyleandkenfigchurches

Margam Calling

www.margamcalling.org.uk and www.facebook.com/MargamCalling

Dear Friends,

Fr. Jonathan

We are currently in Eastertide when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and we are commissioned as disciples to go out to proclaim his Gospel message!

The first disciples were given a message to preach. Those disciples were charged with a story to tell - a story which we have inherited and which we are commanded to proclaim as well. It's a story about the Lord of the Universe who is born in a stable. It's a story about the King of the Ages, who rides on a donkey. It's a story about a God who dies, so that his creation can have life. It's a story about how the followers of this God, who have received his forgiveness, go on to offer that forgiveness to other people.

As the King of Peace, his first words to those early followers was to share those simple words, 'Peace be with you,' which is both a blessing to us and an encouragement as we seek to establish God's Kingdom here and in this context of our Margam Ministry Area!

We have our Annual Vestry Meeting and the gathering of the people of our Ministry Area at the time of writing this Sunday and I wish to say thank you to you all for making this year so momentous in what has been achieved in establishing the Kingdom in this time and place. You really are appreciated for what you offer and give in loving service to the local communities we are privileged to serve and have received that divine commission to continue Our Lord's command.

As we approach the great celebration of Pentecost may this wonderful prayer from Archbishop Oscar Romero be our prayer for our Ministry Area;

***It helps, now and then, to step back
and take the long view.***

***The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.***

***We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of
the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.***

***Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.***

***No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.***

***This is what we are about:
We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.***

***We cannot do everything
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.***

***We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder and the
worker.***

***We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.***

Amen.

By Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero

*Love and prayers,
Fr. Jonathan*



Pasg Hapus! Happy Easter to you all.

Fr Wayne

We are still in the season of Easter even though our Easter flowers have been taken away and our Easter gardens look a bit sad now as the potted plants we used to decorate them have withered.

Nevertheless, we are still in the season of Easter as it lasts for 50 days concluding with the feast of Pentecost.

When I arrived in Porthcawl, we had begun the season of Lent. It was a time for reflection and penance, a time where the worship in our Churches was more restrained. Now we celebrate being Easter people and rejoice in the joy of the resurrection. Our souls have been through the trials and temptations of Lent and now we are once again celebrating our risen Lord.

In May, we not only celebrate Easter but also the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost. When Jesus ascended into heaven, His apostles were suddenly left alone. The Acts of the Apostles tells us how they found it difficult to believe or understand what they'd just witnessed. For some time after he was no longer visible, they stood staring up into the clouds, probably feeling confused, abandoned and perhaps, scared. What would the future hold for them? They had accompanied Jesus throughout his public ministry. They lost him when he was arrested and lost him again when he died on the cross and was buried. In the days between Jesus' death and resurrection, they were probably overwhelmed with guilt at the realisation of their cowardice, abandoning him at the time of his greatest need. When Jesus appeared to them on Easter Sunday, it was possibly an uncomfortable encounter; His forgiveness probably made them feel all the more guilty.

At the same time, having those few days without him and then forty days once again in his presence led the apostles to realise just how much they had loved Jesus. Now he had gone again – and this time his absence would be permanent. He had just instructed them to go out into the whole world to proclaim the good news of God's love, but had left them to do it on their own. Jesus had promised them the Holy Spirit, but they did not yet understand his words. Jesus' ascension seemingly left them abandoned and lonely.

There's a big difference between being alone and being lonely. Solitude can be very welcome: we all need space to think our own

thoughts and to refresh our energies. In the days following the ascension of Jesus into heaven, the disciples went back to Jerusalem and joined in continuous prayer with Mary the mother of Jesus as they awaited the gift of the Holy Spirit. Their experience of Jesus had changed their lives. They were about to become the Church, the gathering together of the friends of Jesus, sent out to be a new presence of Jesus and his message of good news to people everywhere. This is still our mission today. Like Jesus at his baptism, like the apostles at Pentecost, we too have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We too have been born again to new life with heaven as our destiny. We too have been sent out to be a continuing presence of Jesus in today's world, with the same reassurance: "Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

We are all on journeys of life and faith. Some of us may still be at the learning and preparing stage. Others may feel they have mastered their craft or skill and some of us older ones may feel it is close to the end and we need to hand that baton over to others now. We all like to think we will be successful – but it is not always the case. Think of the disciples: some faltered, failed, and were killed and they had the best training from Jesus himself. Sometimes if we pull our resources/talents/gifts/training together, we can be more productive – by uniting and working with others. Before Jesus left, he gave his disciples the tools for the job and they went out and began the Christian church. Yes, they faltered and failed along the way, but by working together they achieved greatness.

As we continue to work and worship together as a Ministry Area, I pray that we will all share in our journeys of life and faith, and be faithful to our calling from Jesus to spread the Gospel message in the places where we live, work and serve. I have been so encouraged by what I have already witnessed in Margam Ministry Area and look forward to continuing to serve amongst you in the years to come. Sometimes the road may be rocky, but if we have the love, prayers and support of each other, then we, like the disciples, can continue to carry out our Christian duties. I pray that the Holy Spirit will give us all the strength and guidance to work together to further God's kingdom here on earth. God bless you all.

YMCA - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow?



Part 1

John Berry BEM

The YMCA is a worldwide, Christian ecumenical voluntary movement for both men and women with special emphasis on genuine involvement of young people, which seeks to share the Christian ideal of building a humane community of justice, peace and reconciliation for the fulfilment of life for all creation. Twelve young men founded the YMCA in London in 1844 all were under 23 years of age. Today there are more than 15,000 local associations with 45 million members in above 125 countries, making the Movement the largest international ecumenical youth organisation in the world.

As a member of this world wide Movement Porthcawl YMCA is committed to **Empowering Young People** and communities to be and to lead the change they want to see. (*Vision 2030 World Alliance of YMCAs*).

Porthcawl became a member in 1908 when a group of local dignitaries, including the then Town Clerk, formed the Porthcawl Young Men's Christian Association. The YMCA commenced its work initially renting a building on South Road known as the Institute. The doors were opened at 9 am and closed at 11 pm; on Sundays they were opened at 8 pm and closed at 10 pm when "*all games and secular literature be set rigidly aside*". Sunday opening deliberately avoided any clash with church services. Activities included a games room for shooting, billiards, draughts, chess, dominoes, bagatelle and quoits; the lounge was equipped with "suitable daily papers and religious literature".

The committee in 1909 "set aside the second room upstairs as a Youths Lounge where, under supervision, they may be allowed to smoke and relax in their own company", to "show our younger members that as Christians we are open and welcoming to everybody". (A positive smoking policy in 1909!). Baths were available at 3d for Hot Bath and 2d for Cold Bath. (*For the sake of our younger readers it should be pointed out that 3d is a little over 1p in today's currency*).

At the same meeting Mr David Jones, Town Clerk, supported the motion “that the Dorothy Café (*now 25-29 John Street*) be purchased for the use of the Porthcawl YMCA at a cost of £1,200.00 and that a deposit of £10.00 be paid.” The YMCA moved into 25 John Street on 1st April 1910, all goods being transported by cart and horse with a goodly number of leaders assisting. In 1911 the committee “resolved to put an incandescent burner of the light in the committee room”. It is thought this was the first electric bulb in use in Porthcawl.

Through the two world wars rest space, writing paper, hot food and baths were provided for the troops. (The YMCA Movement and the Red Cross was a mail conduit for the troops and families). Through the depression and hereafter, the programme has adapted to the needs of the day readily and positively.

In 1983 with the assistance of Grant Aid from Mid Glamorgan County Council a full time, experienced YMCA worker was employed. This ushered in a new era for the Porthcawl YMCA. Twice weekly Junior and Youth Clubs were established, a Senior Citizens Snooker Club allowed continuing activity for older members, a lunch club for Comprehensive School children daily and a growing awareness through the town. The International YMCA became paramount in the work and thinking of Porthcawl YMCA with members traveling to European YMCAs in leadership roles and regular Work Camps in Calcutta. Groups visited YMCAs in UK and Europe; local and European YMCA Groups visited Porthcawl.

A non-alcoholic Night Club for teenagers ran as a Rolling Magazine for two years. The secretary continued in post for seven years moving to the National Council of YMCAs. At that stage the County Council took the opportunity and stopped the grant aid. Porthcawl YMCA once again became a fully voluntary Organisation.

In 1987 Porthcawl hosted the National Assembly of YMCAs of Wales. A guest on that occasion was Terry Waite CBE, Founding President of Y Care International the development wing of the YMCA. Porthcawl YMCA has supported Y Care continuously since that time having raised more than £25,000.

Part 2 follows in the next issue of this magazine

The Family Breakfast

Jeanette Keane

20th April was a wonderful, happy and busy day at The Family Breakfast in Pyle.

Not only did the sun come out but we had a surprise visit from Mr and Mrs Roy Noble and our own Father Wayne.

Also attending were our Special Police Officers and our Councillors Jane Geddes, Huw David and Mike Kearne with their walk in surgery.

It was lovely to see our families and everyone sharing breakfast together.

On the previous Friday evening at an Awards event at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club, we received the Community Champions Award from Pyle Community Council. This will sit proudly alongside the Bridgend County Borough Council Mayor's Citizenship Award 2024!

A very busy weekend indeed.



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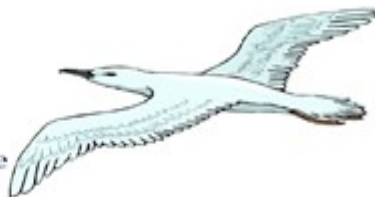
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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"

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.
Registered Charity Number 1123623

Did you know....

1 May 1873 David Livingstone, Scottish missionary and explorer, died. He is best known for his search for the source of the Nile, and for going missing – and being found – in Africa.

2 May 1933 the first modern sighting of Scotland's Loch Ness monster was reported in the Inverness Chronicle.

6 May 1954 Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes, at the Iffley Road Sports Ground in Oxford.

10 May 1773 Britain passed the Tea Act, which favoured the British East India Company over the American colonies. This led to the 'Boston Tea Party' in December, which escalated into the American Revolution and the establishment of the USA.

26-27 May 1923 the first Le Mans 24 hour endurance motor race was held.

29 May 1953 New Zealand mountaineer Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.



News from All Saints

Pam Rossini

Easter Sunday was a joyful occasion with the church filled with daffodils and Easter flowers. The service was well attended and it was lovely to meet up with friends in the hall for coffee and cakes. We were especially pleased to see Alison who has been very seriously ill but is now making a recovery. She will be moving back to Porthcawl so we will soon be seeing more of her radiant smiling face.

Saturday 6th April saw us donning our Easter bonnets for an afternoon tea in the hall. This was well attended with a large group from St John's getting into the spirit of the event by wearing gaily decorated hats - that included the men who joined us. Fr Graham brought back old memories with music to accompany the occasion - a delightful way to spend the afternoon.

The money raised was put towards the Ukraine Appeal and added to the amount already raised by the Easter Lunch.

Well done to Maggie, Jane and whole team for the Easter Lunch which was excellent.

The total donated was £830. Mike Hnyda has sent his thanks and confirmed this will go towards helping to buy an ambulance for Ukraine.

On Wednesday 10th April the service was changed from 10.30 to 11am. This saw fewer parishioners there initially, but hopefully we will soon get used to it.

At the meeting after the service Helen Owen was voted to be People's Warden. She has taken on this role with efficiency and diplomacy for many years.

On Sunday 21st April the Ministry Area Vestry and Joint Area Service was held in All Saints. This was well attended by both clergy and parishioners. We must continue to pray for peace in the war-torn countries of Ukraine and Israel and Gaza; desperate times for many and desperate need for resources.

I hope you had some success with the cakes in the last issue. Now for a super-indulgent cake for a special occasion.

This is **Lydia's Lime and Coconut cake** – very impressive.

300g soft butter	300g caster sugar
6 medium eggs, beaten	275g self-raising flour
75g desiccated coconut	Grated zest 3 limes & juice of 1 lime

For the lime curd:

Juice of 2 limes	1 medium egg
50g caster sugar	25g butter, diced

For the syrup:

Zest and juice of 1 lime	50g caster sugar
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For the filling:

600ml double cream	2 tbsp icing sugar
Grated zest of 1 lime	

For the topping - 100g coconut flakes

Preheat oven to 180C/160/Gas 4. Grease and line the base of 3 x 18cm round sponge tins. Beat butter and caster sugar until pale and creamy (approx 3 mins with an electric mixer). Gradually add the eggs, beating well. Fold in the flour, coconut, lime zest and juice of 1 lime. Divide the mixture evenly between the 3 tins and bake for 25 mins until golden brown and firm to the touch.

While the cakes are baking, make the lime curd. Place the juice of 2 limes, egg, caster sugar and butter in a small bowl over a pan of simmering water. Cook over a low heat, stirring frequently, until it is thickened and coats the back of a wooden spoon.

To make the syrup. Put the lime juice into a small pan and add the sugar. Heat until the sugar dissolves, bring to the boil, then remove from the heat and allow to cool.

Remove cakes from the oven, allow to cool for 5 mins before turning out onto a wire rack to cool fully.

To assemble, whip the cream, icing sugar and zest until it holds its shape, then stir in the lime curd and whisk until thickened. Place one cake on a serving plate, brush with 1 tbsp lime syrup, spread with a little lime curd cream, top with next cake and repeat. Top with the final cake and spread remaining cream on top and sides of cake. Coat with coconut flakes and sprinkle top with reserved lime zest.

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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

A lot has been happening since the last magazine.

We have celebrated Easter with a shining church, lovely flowers and an Easter Garden under the altar and joyous alleluias. Many thanks to all who helped. Following the service, we were treated to wine and cake to celebrate Marjory and Richard Pengelly's 55th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to them both. Unfortunately, Marjory has been in hospital recently following a fall. We wish her well.

Carolyn's eldest grandson, Joe, has passed the first two stages to be accepted by Sandhurst Military Academy for officer training after university. In the same week he was elected Head Boy of his school. His grandparents are very proud.

My son, Huw, and partner, Charlotte, had a baby boy this week, (no name as yet) brother to Louis, Ioan and Merry. Mother and baby are doing well. This is my 6th grandchild. It's nice to have some good news. My eldest granddaughter Hannah is running the London Marathon for the first time tomorrow with her Dad, Gareth, who has done it before. She is raising funds for Heathrow Airport charities, as she works at Heathrow, and Latch in memory of David, her grandfather who helped found this charity for children with cancer 40 years ago in Porthcawl.

Unfortunately, Marion Jones had a severe heart attack recently and is very ill in Morryston Hospital. She has been an active member of our congregation for many years, doing the readings and intercessions and deputising for me on the organ. We pray for her recovery.

Another member of our congregation, Jennifer Baker is also in hospital and we wish her well.

At our church meeting Clive Edwards and Catherine Powell continue as our sub wardens.



Churches Unlocked: 1st - 8th June 10am-4pm

Liz Singer

St John's Church is one of nine churches across the Llandaff diocese taking part in the 2024 Churches Unlocked Festival.

The Festival is a chance to discover and celebrate the history, stories and hidden treasures of our lovely churches.

To complete a week of activities, there's a free 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.

Editor's note: Just a reminder that All Saints is open as usual every day from 8.30am to 6pm every week for personal reflection and prayer.



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their get well cards, wishes and prayers while I was in hospital. Also thank you to the Clergy for visiting me while in hospital.

It meant so much to me and my family. I am home now and on the road to recovery.

So thank you all very much.

Becky Willis



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 fund-raising idea. In 2023 the money collected from the Jolly Sailor quiz was a big contribution to the St John's porch renovations.

The committee are doing sterling work again getting the event ready. Special thanks to you all. We are looking for cakes and bric-a-brac

News from St John's

Diane Jackson



Easter has come and gone for another year. As always, Holy Week was a very busy time for the clergy. Our Ministry Area seems to have more services than other areas, as Fr Wayne has found out! Most of the services appear to be well supported which must make it all the more worthwhile for them.

This year our Good Friday Service was held at 12 noon. After so many years of it being at 10am, it would appear that the new timing may be more suitable for the congregation as there was a very good turnout, with not only regulars from the various services at St John's but also people from other of our churches. Not only was it at a different time but we also has 4 hymns. The service was officiated by Fr Jonathan and the liturgy was narrated by Anne Burtonwood. For me at least, it was a very moving service for the end of Lent as we remember the sacrifice Our Lord made for us. Thank you to all who contributed.

From last month's magazine, I too remember the Good Friday service being 12 to 3. We usually went in for the last hour or so! The service we had this year reminded me of those services. Those were the days when the local shops closed at 12 noon, in recognition of the day. Likewise all the girls had new 'costumes' plus new hat, shoes and gloves for Easter Day! Shows our age and how things have changed! Also after Easter we went back to school in summer dresses!

Easter day dawned bright and sunny, and those attending the early service were greeted with the bell ringers in full action proclaiming our Lord had risen. The church was again magnificently decorated with lilies. Thank you Sandra and your band of ladies for your time, talent and dedication all used to show your love of God. Many thanks also to all who contributed towards the lily appeal. We all love to see fresh flowers in church, so if you want to acknowledge a special event with flowers in church, the Flower Guild would be more than happy to accept your donation to cover the cost.

Finally, Evensong is reverting to a 6pm start from the beginning of May. Do come and join us.



**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN PORTHCAWL**

**EGLWYSI YNGHYD
YM MHORTHCAWL**



Christian Aid Week Events 2024

**Sunday 12th May - Christian Aid All-Age service at 3pm in Tabernacl,
Fenton Place, CF36 3DW**

Tuesday 14th May - Beach Clean, followed by a cream tea.
Meet outside Sussed at 11am, James St, Porthcawl, CF36 3BG

Saturday 18th May, 11-3pm: A 'Holy Hike' for Christian Aid
calling at all our member churches! Could you sponsor us?
More details on our Facebook (www.facebook.com/eglwysi).

Why not join us for a cream tea that same day? at St David's,
Florence Street, Nottage Village, Porthcawl CF36 3SR from 3pm,

All Welcome!

Saturday 18th May - Plant Sale from 10-1pm in Trinity Church, John
Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3DT



Newton Nottage Mothers' Union

Judith Shawe

We enjoyed a meeting on Tuesday in Easter week. As we had no speaker, it was a chance to catch up and discuss future plans. Altogether, a good afternoon with tales of bus trips taken, resulting in a fair amount of hilarity!

There was a really good turn out for the Family service and Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday. We were delighted to be joined by Noush, Flossie and Kate who played their instruments with great aplomb, accompanying the songs. Everyone had an instrument of sorts and the resulting sound was truly LOUD! Many thanks to Fr Wayne for sorting the Easter garden, and to all the children for aiding and assisting in its creation. There was a difference of opinion over the gravel but it worked out! Kelly supervised the stone painting and the finished masterpieces formed the edging to the garden. Jacinth provided the flowers, Lydia and Jacinth provided the instruments - thanks girls, the headache lasted for days!

Who knew so many people would turn up wearing Easter bonnets! The Easter bonnet tea on Saturday following Easter was a great success. Everyone had made an effort and people looked amazing. Mention must be made of Gareth Lewis whose outfit put the Easter Bunny to shame!! Well done to Iris who won the best hat prize, awarded by Fr Graham. Speaking of Fr Graham, he provided lovely background music during the afternoon, refreshed only by a sandwich and a cup of tea. What a guy! Thank you to Gordon, Jacinth and Lydia for the flowers and to the lovely girls who manned the kitchen and generally helped. £234 was raised for Ukraine. Thank you all.

Eleven of us went to the Grove for the MU Deanery lunch. It's always good to meet up with old friends and make new ones, all while having a delicious lunch! Helen won the raffle, a hamper, which she generously gave us to raffle at the Croeso Tea. Thank you Helen.

The next Croeso Tea is on 4th May in All Saints at 2pm. I'm looking forward to seeing you all for a chat, fellowship and homemade cake! Our next MU meeting is on Tuesday 7th May with Fr Wayne as our speaker. Everyone is most welcome.



News from Margam Abbey

Bev Gulley

Once again, we have had a busy month: Jack was Baptised. Jo and Huw's wedding was very special and, even late afternoon, the sun shone on what had been a week of miserable weather. The following day, Averil and Bob Williams arrived in style (a surprise vintage car), for a blessing to celebrate their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary. It was a wonderful and emotional occasion; Averil carried yellow roses as she did 60 years before; there were readings and family memories; Mother Ruth sang '*Ave Maria*'; and there was not a dry eye in the house as Averil and Bob walked back down the aisle to 'I Want to be Bobby's Girl'. The celebration was concluded by a tea (made by family and friends) in the beautifully decorated Drill Hall, where Averil's sister, Sue, had made a celebration cake, and on display was the Best Wishes card received from the King and Queen. The Service for the Knights Templars was as ever a spectacular event, and fantastic photo opportunity.

We hosted tours of the Abbey and Stones Museum for Dr Alex Langlands and history undergraduates of Swansea University, and a private tour for blogger, Lucy Dodsworth.

An MA 'Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary' Mass at the Abbey was well attended. Thanks to the lovely ladies who served refreshments and to everyone who brought cakes.

The Saturday 11am guided tours/talks resumed in April, with a tour of the Abbey by Bev. These no-book tours have been very popular, catering in particular to those still working or not members of groups, clubs and societies.

We look forward in the next few weeks to:

- The wedding of Sebastian and Rebecca.
- A Service for The Retired Clergy Association.
- Visits from the Pontardulais walking and camera group.
- 4th May 11am - Talk on Emily Charlotte Talbot



Guided Tours for:

- Visitors from the Heritage National Lottery.
- Lampeter Senior Citizens.
- Gilgal Church Porthcawl.
- Theatrical History tour with Cardiff Nantes Exchange Group.

The children's activity area goes from strength to strength, with a differing weekly theme. Thank you so much Liz for this work, the planning and often clearing up - a testament to its use.

Mothers' Union - Our MU goes from strength to strength. The April talk was on '*My Ten Years in France (The Best of Times, the Worst of Times)*' with Wendy Greensmith. A lovely afternoon.

May's speaker is Emma Hodges '*Eternal Wall and My New Job*'.

Our MU meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2pm in the Drill Hall. On the 16th May, the MU Deanery Festival is at the Abbey, followed by refreshments.

18th May, 7pm - 25th Anniversary Concert of Neath Port Talbot 'Cancer Challenge Singers'. This mixed choir of over 50 members with Musical Director Geraint Williams, has already contributed significantly, to the million pounds raised by the Neath Port-Talbot Cancer Challenge Charity.

Following 'The Annual Vestry', the Abbey moves forward with a new Local Church Council, Sub-Wardens, Bev Gulley and Wendy Greensmith (welcome on board), and MA representatives Pam Scourfield and Bev Gulley.

Some Words of Wisdom

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks
James Allen, British author, poet and philosophical writer

When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.
Maya Angelou, American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist

If you have good thoughts, they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.

Roald Dahl, British novelist

News from St Theodore's

Margaret Griffiths

Amongst the photographs and other documents that St Theodore's acquired after the death of Keith E. Morgan is an article he wrote in 2005 for the free paper "The Recorder". It recounts the experiences of a young American GI who was based at Kenfig during preparations for the D-Day landings in Normandy. One of those GIs was Lewis Cass Leigh, who Keith met several times. Lewis related his memories of the war and of his stay at Kenfig to Keith.

Lewis was an 18-year-old student in Washington DC at the time of his enlistment. He was drafted to Great Britain in January 1944 and assigned to Company D 116th Regiment of 29th Infantry Division as a machine gunner. With 15,000 other GIs he sailed across the Atlantic on the liner the Isle de France. It was a very rough crossing, with many of the GIs succumbing to sea-sickness. On landing at Greenock in Scotland, after disembarking, Lewis proceeded to his first camp in Yeovil. From there he was posted to Kenfig in January 1944.

Kenfig was a training camp and, with the exception of the mess hall and facilities for showering which were permanent buildings, everything else was tented and in the open. As the winter of 1944 was very cold, this couldn't have been very comfortable, with icicles hanging inside the tents. Even though it was so cold, coal was only allocated to each tent once a week and that was for heating water to wash clothes! During his time at Kenfig, Lewis carried out advanced infantry training in the sand dunes. After each day's training the GIs were allowed off camp. On Sunday's Lewis attended services at St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill. It was after one of these services that Lewis met the Jones family. He was invited into the Vicarage for tea by the Rev Vyron G. Jones and his wife, Mrs Phyllis Jones, and thus began a friendship that endured down the years. The Vicarage became a second home for Lewis and he walked there most evenings from the camp at Kenfig to be with the family.

After completing his training Lewis was posted to Taunton and then to an undisclosed camp in southern England prior to D-Day. Before leaving Kenfig, Lewis, aware of the probable high mortality rate await-

ing them in Normandy, left a gold ring and watch (gifts from his parents) with the Rev Vyron Jones so that, in the event of his death in action, they could be sent back to his home in the U.S.

On D-Day, Lewis was in the third wave that landed on Omaha Beach. His outfit moved forward through Normandy, Holland and Germany. At the end of the war Lewis sailed back home to the USA and was demobbed in January 1946.

On his return home he returned to university to complete his education, and then set up in business as an insurance broker. Lewis returned to Kenfig Hill after the war to a great welcome from Rev Vyron G. Jones and his family, to collect his ring and watch. He returned many times after that – I remember him attending services at St Theodore's. So grateful was Lewis to the Rev Vyron G. Jones and Mrs Jones that he had a plaque placed in their memory in the nave of the National Cathedral of Washington DC. It was fitting that Richard Jones their eldest son, together with his wife, visited Lewis in August 2001 and witnessed the dedication of the memorial to their parents.

When asked why he had wanted to erect the plaque, Lewis' reply was: "I will never forget the kindness and the sacrifices that the Rev and Mrs Jones made for me when I was at Kenfig. I was always welcome at their dinner table, where they regularly shared their meagre rations with me"

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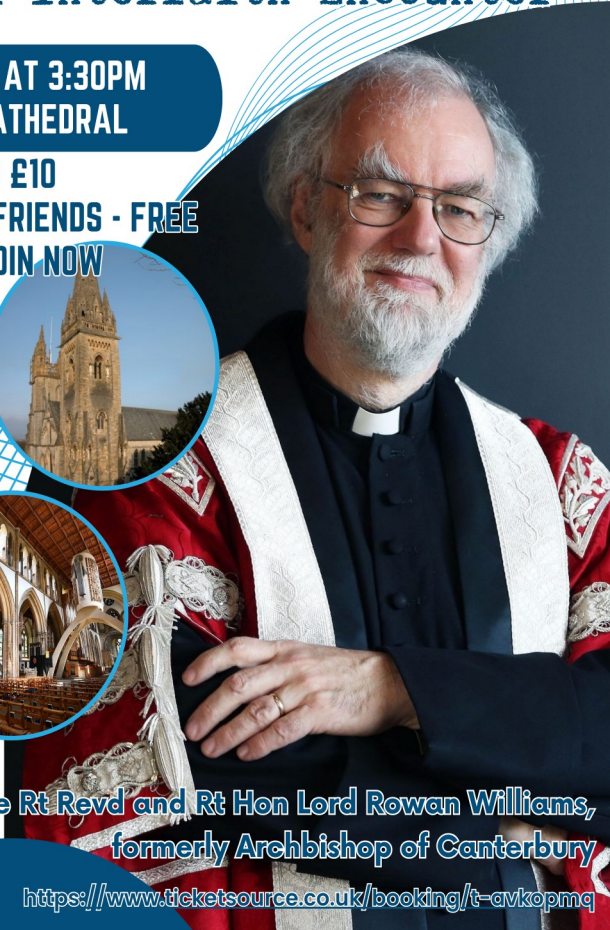


FOR TICKETS



by the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Lord Rowan Williams,
formerly Archbishop of Canterbury

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-avkopmq>



Sans (almost) Everything

Adrian Warner

Truly, I am frayed at the edges. Hearing and teeth almost all gone, smell and taste never did seem as sensitive as other folks. My touch is still good when wielding an electric drill or a screwdriver but Old Man's Claw Contraction means that it is not possible to span an octave now. Specs enable me to focus distant objects. Though it may be a delusion, my mind can perceive with that crystal clarity that comes with old age. I often imagine being a few thousand miles above the Earth, what do I perceive ?

A small planet, large enough at 8000 miles diameter for gravity to hold an atmosphere just a few miles thick, enough to keep feet on the ground and make brittle things break when they are dropped. It orbits a suitable distance from the sun for the light and heat to enable vegetation to grow, animal life to flourish, weather to be varied and the water cycle to operate. Not universally though, there are ice-caps and deserts, but there is enough water for oceans. Starting 4600 million years ago as a red hot ball, the cooled surface layer rides on the molten core which causes this skin to crinkle and occasionally allows some magma to erupt.

On the surface 8 billion (growing exponentially) people have developed; all but a few trying to make their lives easier and more comfortable by exploiting the vegetable, animal and mineral resources, without concern for the finite nature of these. No need to bother, most think, each person will only live for about a hundred years (barring fatal illness, accidents, murders, natural disasters and wars); and then it will be somebody else's problem. Anyway, their offspring will adapt technology to keep the population (9.7 billion within a generation) fed, clothed, entertained and having unlimited travel and consumption. The majority enjoy their opulent lives so much that they want (to believe) it will be eternal, the multitudes that have miserable, hungry, war torn lives are persuaded to hope for an eternity which will be better. Thousands earn their living by wearing expensively embroidered dress to preach this. Both historically and at present nations envy the fortune of other nations and seek to take the

earthly wealth of others for themselves. Refugees flood back and forth, another wasteful use of the precious resources, but few care. The oceans are polluted with sewage and plastic and fish cruelly killed by being trapped in discarded fishing nets. The air is polluted by many noxious emissions.

However a growing number of altruistic, deeply thinking, humans do promote restraint, economy, sustainability, and peace. Many devote their own lives to helping the less fortunate in the belief that a life of goodness is reward enough. Sometimes they get a pat on the back or a medal on the lapel, but are then disregarded by the majority who have to keep developing forwards or they will be left behind. Scheduled targets beneficial to the Earth cannot be achieved, so are deferred, and good governments lose their votes to those who promise the earth to everyone.

Soon I will fray in the middle and lose my perception and become sans everything!

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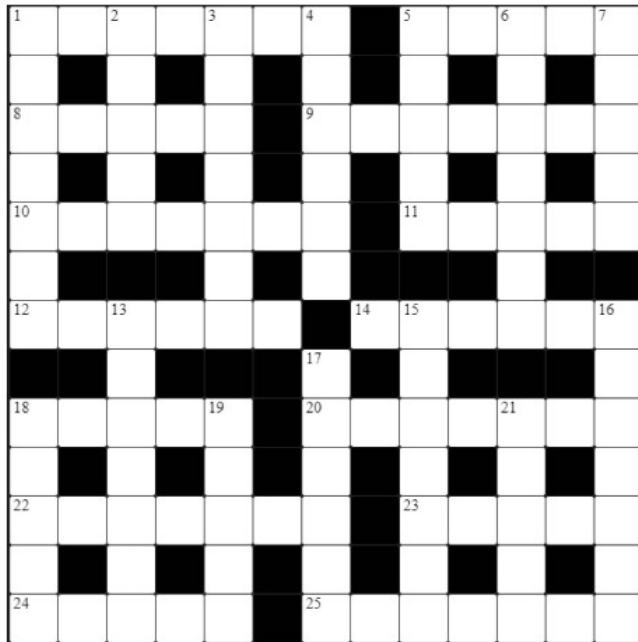
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Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Legendary founder of Rome (7)
- 5 Game on a green (5)
- 8 Freight (5)
- 9 Very active (2,3,2)
- 10 Drinking vessel (7)
- 11 Detested (5)
- 12 Fleet of ships (6)
- 14 Groups of 12 (6)
- 18 Garret (5)
- 20 Got away (7)
- 22 Monarchical state (7)
- 23 Proverb (5)
- 24 Cereal crop (5)
- 25 News (7)

Down

- 1 Type of biscuit (4,3)
- 2 Idiot (5)
- 3 Big cat (7)
- 4 Cheap and nasty (6)
- 5 Bungle (5)
- 6 Grapple (7)
- 7 Fencer's weapon (5)
- 13 Daytime performance (7)
- 15 Area with fruit trees (7)
- 16 Sorrow (7)
- 17 Muppet frog (6)
- 18 Awry (5)
- 19 Military trainee (5)
- 21 Small edible crustacean (5)

Quick Crossword Answer (page29)



Workshop & correspondence:

Jubilee Gardens,

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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** (from 5th May)

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

A Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2024

Loving God,
Help us to hear the voices of those enduring extreme poverty.
It is hard to listen to stories of pain.
Show us how compassion for others
can bring healing and fullness of life for all.
Help us to understand that we are one through your love,
for every human being is loved by you, beyond measure.

Loving God,
you call on us to build your kingdom of justice, mercy, and truth.
It isn't a task for the faint-hearted.
When we lose our sense of purpose, fill us with faith.
When we doubt or throw up our hands in despair, fill us with hope.
When we pass by our neighbour as though we did not know them,
Fill us with the love that turns us back and takes us to their aid.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



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:

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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
	Mr Phillip Angell	01656 710948
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	01656 773979
Saint Mary Magdalene, Maudlam	Mr John Roberts	07851 122804
	Mrs Eileen Edwards	07530 989433
Saint James, Pyle		

Saint Theodore, Kenfig Hill	Mrs Margaret Phillips	07748 678827
	Mrs Margaret Griffiths	07477 648871
Margam Abbey	Mr Colin Gulley	07576 921005
	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 Snapshot of the Ministry Area





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