



Margam

Ministry Area Magazine



Easter 2024



MARGAM MINISTRY AREA ANNUAL VESTRY *Meeting*



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, PORTHCAWL

MASS
10:00AM



MEETING
AFTER
MASS



SUNDAY 21ST APRIL

We look forward to seeing you there...

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A little sunshine makes the world of difference!

Isn't it amazing how a little bit of sunshine makes the whole world look so much better! Daffodils, Mothering Sunday and Easter – spring is really here. And all that rain is making things look lovely and green!!!

Spring is a time of new starts and we are pleased that Fr Wayne is settling in well. We also wish Fr Mark Broadway every success in his new role in the Ministry Area of Pen Y Bont Ar Ogwr, and Fr Mark and Mthr Ruth success in their new endeavours in Cardiff. Once again, thank you all for your friendship and service to us.

I'm delighted to welcome the Archdeacon of Margam, Fr Mark Preece, as a guest contributor this month. I am sure you'll find his reflections on Holy Week very interesting. We also welcome some new advertisers this month – thank you. As ever, a big thank you to all our regular contributors and advertisers – we have an eclectic selection of content to make us think, to make us smile and to make us pleased to be part of such a rich community.

By the way, when you respond to any of the adverts, please mention to the advertiser that you saw it in this church magazine, that really will help us all.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue. Please send articles and photos for the May issue to me by 20 April.

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: The children at the Family Breakfast helped Fr Jonathan to make an Easter Garden.

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

WORSHIP IN THE MINISTRY AREA

ALL SAINTS, Porthcawl

Sunday: Mass at 08.00 & 10.00
Monday: Mass at 12.00
Wednesday: Mass at 10.30 **(from 7 April - 11.00)**

MARGAM ABBEY, Margam

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.00 **(from 7 April - 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 11.00 **(from 7 April - 11.15)**
Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Newton

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.00 **(from 7 April - 11.15)**
Evensong at 18.00
NOTE: from 31 March 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*

'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!'

Fr Jonathan

It is often the case that many Christians give so much time and energy to the observance of Lent but less so to the great celebration of Easter. More time for prayer, devotion and service. However, Easter is a time when we are invited not just to feast and to celebrate, but to also be transformed. Christ's death and resurrection invites us to look beyond the everyday realities of life and to contemplate those that are eternal, the sacrificial love of Christ, and the power of that love to transform life. Resurrection is a reality to be lived each day. We are challenged not just to remember the events of Easter, but to be changed by them, which requires us to engage and live out every day!

As we celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection and walk the Emmaus Road with our risen Lord and engage with him in the conversation of our life, we see how our humanity can be transformed by his grace. The more we become aware of this and embrace the experience of resurrection in this life, the more we grow in our faith and understanding of final resurrection after our physical death to which the gospel points, makes sense. We will only grasp the meaning of resurrection as our ultimate destiny when we realise that it is a place we have already entered and are already living. St Augustine of Hippo once said, 'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song'. So how will we be an Easter people this year? How will we live the resurrection in the here and now? May the joy of the resurrection be the hallmark of our witness and life in Christ and let 'Alleluia' be our song, for Easter is a time for joyful, singing hearts and lives.

May the great gift of Easter bring new life and joy to you, your families, friends and all those you love.

Living God,

you have given us a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead: grant that we, being risen with Him, may fix our hearts on heavenly things and share eternal life.

Amen

Pasg Hapus,
Fr. Jonathan

The Archdeacon of Margam reflects on Holy Week

Dear Friends,

“And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.” (Luke 23:48)

Some years ago, a newspaper headline read: “Jesus Christ crucified on Aberavon seafront”: an eye-catching title for a piece on Michael Sheen’s Port Talbot Passion. All around the world in Holy Week Jesus will be publicly executed over and over again.

The momentous events from Palm Sunday to Easter are not just remembered in churches but brought vividly to life (and death) in fields and streets, castles and shopping centres across the world. For centuries, people have enacted the scenes of Holy Week in passion plays. The most famous, at Oberammergau, only happens every ten years. With their huge casts to bring crowd scenes to life, their elaborate costumes and magnificent settings, some of the plays are truly spectacular.

In the New Revised Standard Version translation, Luke tells us the crucifixion was a ‘spectacle’. Rather than the “sight” of some translations, “spectacle” captures the gruesome fact that public executions then, and for much of human history, were public entertainment. Yet the crowds who gathered to have fun that day went home distressed – another detail only found in St Luke’s gospel.

Many of the people in the crowd would have been among the cheering throng who had welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, spreading cloaks on the ground or waving the palm branches that give the first day of Holy Week its name. Many were disappointed that the Messiah they praised with hosannas showed no inclination to overthrow the hated Romans but instead caused mayhem in the Temple, driving out people trying to earn a living. Many then cried out against him to Pilate and demanded instead the release of Barabbas, leader of a previous insurrection.

Passion means suffering; it also means love. Passion plays, like the original Passion itself, can stir in spectators a sense of guilt (at our inhumanity to each other and our rejection of God’s love) that sends

us home metaphorically beating our breasts... until the lesson of Easter sinks in: forgiveness of sins and an invitation to Paradise. A spectacle becomes a life-changing experience. The distressed crowds of St Luke's Gospel may have welcomed the preaching of Spirit-filled disciples in his sequel, the Acts of the Apostles – and the Church immediately began to grow.

But the transforming power of the cross was already at work in a penitent thief and an amazed centurion. Witnessing the passion of an innocent Jesus, his very human suffering in body and soul, they also heard his prayer to a loving Father to forgive those who abused and tortured him. They saw the humility and humanity of the King of Paradise, the incarnate God who loves us... passionately.

On Palm Sunday, two Gospel readings give us cheers and jeers, palms and passion. The contrast is important, and passion plays include both. Like those crowds, we sometimes welcome the Messiah into our lives with joy, only to reject him when life doesn't turn out as we expected. Even disciples betrayed or denied him or simply watched from a distance.

There are times when, like the disappointed crowds in Jerusalem, we can't understand what God is doing. Why, they grumbled, did God send them a Messiah who didn't want to fight the Romans? Why, we complain, does God still allow innocent people to suffer?

There are no easy answers to the question of human suffering. Part of the answer is that human beings are themselves responsible for much of it, directly or indirectly. We may not nail people to a cross but, like those crowds, we often stand and watch. We don't write to our politicians or join a peaceful protest. We begrudge a pound in a charity box but spend twice as much on a coffee.

Jesus will be publicly executed again in the heart of communities across the world... but not just in passion plays. Jesus is crucified whenever children starve, women are denied education and men are tortured while we, the crowd, stand and watch.

Large numbers of local people get involved in staging a passion play (2,000 at Oberammergau, half the village population!) whether acting,

Continued on Page 8

WANTED

Minute Secretary

for the Margam Ministry Area Council (MAC) Meetings

Just one evening a month on the first Wednesday of the month, except August and December. Meetings alternate between the different churches in the Ministry Area.

Can YOU help? Please contact
Fr Jonathan Durley, Ministry Area Leader at
JonathanDurley@churchinwales.org.uk

OR

Wendy Xerri, Ministry Area Lay Chair at wendyxerri@gmail.com

PLEASE HELP

Reflections on Holy Week continued

writing scripts, making costumes and sets, singing or playing instruments, generating publicity or providing refreshments. Can we get involved, in ways best suited to our own talents and situations, in helping the world Jesus died for?

As we reflect on this year's Holy Week, in church services or passion plays, may we too be 'distressed'. May we be shaken out of our complacency and prepared to listen humbly; may we learn with our hearts. Then, God can transform us from spectators into performers, watchers into doers, working for a world of justice as Christ's Easter people.

With every good wish,
Yours in Christ,

Father Mark

The Venerable Mark Preece
Archdeacon of Margam



‘this coming season’

The Great I Am Starts Sunday 14th April

Jesus said “I am”, but what does this mean?
For the Church, Jesus is our Unique Selling
Point, our USP - who was he? and why does it
matter?

Join us this season as we look at Jesus, how
Jesus can change our lives, and how through
us Jesus can change our communities and
grow his church.

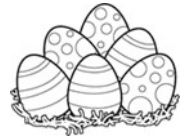
April 14th: Before Abraham was I AM
Speaker: Rod Green Archdeacon of Llandaff

St Theodore’s Church @ 5:30pm

remember/
**you’re
invited!!**

www.margamcalling.org.uk

Why are Eggs associated with Easter?



As a Christian, the first image you see when you think of Easter may be the cross or the empty tomb. For the general public, with so many adverts and merchandise in the shops, it is more likely that Easter Eggs come to mind.

So how did eggs become associated with Easter?

Many Ancient cultures saw eggs as a symbol of life. Hindus, Egyptians, Persians and Phoenicians believed the world began with an enormous egg. The Persians, Greeks and Chinese gave gifts of eggs during spring festivals in celebration of the new life all around them. Other sources say people ate dyed eggs at spring festivals in Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome. In ancient Druid lore, the eggs of serpents were sacred and stood for life.

Early Christians looked at the connection eggs had to life and decided eggs could be a part of their celebration of Christ's resurrection. Also, in some areas, eggs were forbidden during Lent and were therefore a delicacy at Easter. Since many of these customs were Eastern in origin, some speculate that missionaries or knights of the Crusade may have been responsible for bringing the tradition to the West.

In the fourth century, people presented eggs in church to be blessed and sprinkled with holy water. By the twelfth century, the *Benedictio Ovorum* had been introduced authorising the special use of eggs on the holy days of Easter.

In 1290, Edward I recorded a purchase of 450 eggs to be coloured or covered with gold leaf. He then gave the eggs to members of the royal household.

Once the custom became accepted, new traditions began to grow up around it.

Eggs were dyed red for joy, and in memory of Christ's blood.

Egg rolling contests became popular, possibly as a reminder of the stone being rolled away.

And the Easter Egg hunt may have grown out of the tradition of German children searching for hidden pretzels during the Easter season – now instead of hiding pretzels we began hiding eggs!

MARGAM MINISTRY AREA SERVICE



Join us at
Margam Abbey
for

THE Annunciation OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

MONDAY 8TH APRIL AT 7PM
FOLLOWED BY RERESHMENTS IN THE ABBEY HALL



News from All Saints

Pam Rossini

Fr Wayne has been busy during these last few weeks getting to know us. It's a time of adjustment as we also want to know more about our new vicar and spiritual leader. We want to welcome him and hope he will be happy in our little town.

Mothering Sunday was a very happy day when we give thanks for our own mothers and thanks for Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus. Some beautiful hymns were sung and small bunches of daffodils handed out by the young children. Daffodils are always a pleasure heralding spring and new life.

Easter is fast approaching and many services are available. Hopefully we will see the church full on Easter Sunday as we give thanks for the risen Christ.

During Wednesdays in Lent we have been making soup lunches available for all the Parish. Sadly the numbers have been badly depleted, let's hope we see an improvement next year.

Helen and I are making plans to decorate the church with Easter flowers and once again Jacky, Nicola and Becky will be making a Garden of Repose in the Lady Chapel.

It was so good to see them all together at the Croeso tea on Saturday. Cheerful and smiling as ever, even through their health problems.

Jacky has been the mainstay of our flower ladies for many years, executing the most beautiful arrangements. It's only her health now that slows her down. Jacky and her girls are an inspiration, selfless and uncomplaining.

Another couple of inspiring ladies are Maggie and Jane, quietly and efficiently they will be producing a superb Easter lunch. How lucky we are to have good food, good company and love for all spread around.

At our card corner, we have had a new injection of cards for all occasions. They are very beautiful and reasonably priced.

War rages in Ukraine and Palestine, it seems the atrocities poured on the population will go on unabated; our TV screens are filled with the starving, wounded and beaten. We must pray for an end to these

merciless wars and for peace.

I urge you all to pray too for the Princess of Wales and her family who will need all our prayers and good wishes to help them through this difficult time.

As promised, here are two cakes recipes – they are highly recommended and truly delicious. If by chance you don't eat cake, you can always give some to neighbours, friends or family. Enjoy making them and eating them!

Kelly's Mandarin Orange Cake

1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 x 11oz tin mandarin oranges, drained
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp vanilla essence.

1 cup SR flour
½ tsp salt



Combine all the ingredients and beat for 3 minutes. Place the mixture in an 8-9" cake tin. Bake in a preheated oven at 170C/330F/Gas 3 for approx. 30 minutes.

For the Topping

¼ cup brown sugar
1 tbsp milk

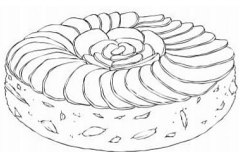
1 tbsp butter or margarine

Boil all ingredients together. Make holes in the cake with a skewer and spoon the liquid over the hot cake.

Serve with ice cream – very yummy!

Andrea's Apple Cake

Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4; use a 20cm tin



115g butter, diced and chilled
2 tsp cinnamon
115g light brown sugar
1 large egg
225g cooking apples, diced

225g SR flour
6-8 tbsp milk
100g sultanas

Mix flour and cinnamon together; rub in the butter and stir in the sugar. Beat the egg and add the milk to make a batter. This should be smooth and thick. Now add the apples and sultanas. Cook for 30-40 minutes. Remove from the tin and cool on a wire rack. Enjoy!

Time to go Travelling.....?

Anyone interested in the “South Wales Pilgrimage “
to Walsingham (22-25 July 2024).

Ring Linda Fletcher on 01656 772014 for information.



Porthcawl Foodbank



Thank you to everyone who continues to donate
to Foodbank. It is very much appreciated.

Judith Shawe

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

St John's Summer Fayre is on Saturday 6th July 2024.
Join us on Newton Green for fun and friendship.



YMCA PORTHCRAWL

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
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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

I am writing this as we approach Palm Sunday and Holy Week , culminating in the joy of Easter. Last year, Palm Sunday was my first Sunday back playing the organ following surgery and we didn't process to Nottage Green as it was raining and the grass wet. I don't think we will be going this year following all the recent rain.

For many years we were led by a donkey from Ros's field below our house, but the donkey died 4 years ago and then we had the Covid restrictions and things seem to have changed since.

Our St David's Day Service was well attended and both Fr Wayne and Fr Jonathan were there. The Welsh hymns were sung with gusto and part of the reading from Isaiah was read in Welsh. Fr Wayne spoke about the life of St David and his austere regime of bread and water and caring for the little things. We, however, enjoyed Welsh cakes and bara brith with our coffee!

A service of Stations of the Cross prepared by Fr Wayne was also held in St David's. We were able to meditate on the paintings showing the stations following each prayer.

I would like to wish Fr Mark well on his new appointment as Priest in charge of the Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr Ministry Area which he starts after Easter. I hope he will be happy there.

Good Luck to Fr Mark Broadway

We were delighted to hear that Fr Mark Broadway has been appointed as Ministry Area Leader for the Ministry Area Of Pen Y Bont Ar Ogwr, taking up the role after Easter. Fr Mark will be leading a team who look after the eight churches of Bridgend and surrounding villages.

Fr Mark said, "It's an emotional move for me, stepping away from all that God is doing in Porthcawl and the Margam Ministry Area. But it's also a joyful move to an area I know and love and where I'll be close to my children's schools."

We would like to thank Fr Mark for all he has done here in Porthcawl and the Ministry Area of Margam during his time with us and wish him every success for the future.

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Newton Nottage Mothers' Union

Judith Shawe

We enjoyed a great meeting in March when we welcomed Nicola Bennett, Head of Communications in Llandaff. What a wonderful communicator she was! Nicola encouraged and inspired us to spread the word and not to keep the Good News to ourselves. As a valleys' girl, I have no problem with communication, although I don't always make much sense! Our next meeting will be on April 2nd and everyone is welcome to come - there's no speaker, but there's still plenty to chat about !

The Croeso Tea girls raised £160 for Sandville at the last tea. Thank you to everyone for your support and generosity. It was lovely to see the Willis family, especially Becky who was in hospital over Christmas. Becky is officially the youngest member of Newton Nottage MU!

Alternate teas will benefit local charities, so please come along and eat cake for a good cause! Good fun and fellowship too.

We're looking forward to the Easter Bonnet Afternoon Tea on April 6th in All Saints' Hall. This is a ticket only event as numbers are limited. All proceeds will go to Ukraine - don't forget your Easter bonnet!

We're also looking forward to the Deanery lunch in April. It is always good to meet up with other MU members. Check out the church notice boards and read 'Everything you wanted to know about MU, but were afraid to ask' - I'll try to answer questions about MU if you have any.

We're collecting clothes, toiletries and out-of-date medication (unopened) for shipping to the Ukraine. Please just bring donations to church (use the yellow buckets) or straight to Pat Richards at 15 St Christopher's Road. Thank you.

Hoping for a good turnout for the Family Service and Egg Hunt at All Saints on Holy Saturday. We'll be building the Easter garden too.

Wishing you all a Holy and Blessed Easter,

Judith

Churches Unlocked: 1st - 8th June

Liz Singer



St John the Baptist Church will be open from 10am - 4pm every day from 1st - 8th June this year as part of the Churches Unlocked Festival run by the Llandaff Diocese in South Wales. This is an opportunity for people to discover the beauty and history of our usually locked churches.

St John's is the only church in the Ministry Area to be open so we hope it will be a good time for us all to come together to host it.

Volunteers will be required to man the church during this time and to assist with refreshments in the School Room so we will be looking out for your help in due course. Please make a note of the date and let everyone know that it is happening.

200 Club Reminder

Subs for the 2024-2025 year are now due. New members are very welcome – WE NEED YOU!

Our next event is on 1st June 2024 at All Saints - details to follow.

We are looking for soft toys for the Summer Fayre and would love donations, large and small, single or by the bagful! If you need help getting them to us, please ring Linda on 01656 772014.

Ministry Area Magazine - Subscriptions due

Annual subscription for 10 issues is £7.00: a single issue is 80p.

PLEASE NOTE: All profits go to **your own church**.

Please can you pay the person who delivers your magazine or the magazine rep in your church.

Alternatively you can pay by BACS to (CAF Bank).

Sort Code - 40-52-40 : Account No. - 00007843.

Please include reference YOURNAME-Mag24.

A little light relief

A recent visit to the doctor confirmed that I had laryngitis; I was to take paracetamol and use Vick. I told him I didn't know Vick was even available– I hadn't used it for eighty years!

Is this what is meant by a second childhood?

News from St John's

Diane Jackson



Our new Vicar appears to be settling in well and is getting used to which service is being held in which church and which day! We are gradually getting to know him and he us!

It is very nice to have someone jolly and outgoing. He takes a lovely service and has such a clear speaking voice. I know those whose hearing is not so good, find him very easy to hear. We look forward to getting to know each other better over the coming weeks.

Obviously he will want to make changes (not too many we hope) and one of the first changes is that after Easter, on 7th April, the 11am Sunday service will be moved to 11.15am, to accommodate the shortage of clergy we now have. Hopefully no one is too put out and inconvenienced with this small change. On the subject of change, Evensong will revert back to 6pm when the clocks go forward on 30th March, which of course falls on Easter weekend.

The ladies of the Flower guild are taking donations for Easter lilies. As previously indicated, the suggested cost is £5 per lily. All offerings will be most gratefully received. A thank you to those who have already donated.

For St David's Day, Rob and Chris (two former choir boys!) bravely ventured up the tower to hoist our National Flag. Well done boys and many thanks for your efforts. St David's Day this year fell on a Friday, and much to the disgust of some of our Friday Coffee attendees, (who had given up cakes and biscuits for Lent) we served Welsh cakes!

Finally we were delighted to hear that Mark has now been awarded his own ministry area in Bridgend. Apparently he is now responsible for 8 churches! We wish him every blessing for his future ministry and every good wish to him and his family for this next chapter of their lives.

Every blessing of Easter to you all!



News from Margam Abbey

Bev Gulley

Sad news blighted March with the passing of one of our longest serving parishioners, Anne Wills. Anne (nee Fenton) was brought up locally, her father working on the Margam Estate. Widowed young, her mother went out to work and Anne gave up a place nursing to look after her younger brother David. Anne married Malcolm in 1958 at the Abbey, with a reception in the Drill Hall. She was a member of the WI, choir, Abbey Ladies Guild; and for many years maintained the altar linen and vestments. Anne and Malcolm were stalwarts of the fete with a very profitable tombola, and her Welsh cakes were legendary. It was touching to see the Lent Chasuble made by Anne out on display at the funeral, her choir hat on the coffin. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Malcolm who remains in hospital with ill health, and her son Nigel and husband Paul. Anne will be much missed by us all.

The Inauguration of the High Sheriff of West Glamorgan, attended by many dignitaries and the South Wales Police Halberdiers, was as usual full of pomp and circumstance. Young Henry, our Boat Boy, loved meeting them all.

The talks in our 'Celebrating Women' fortnight were well received, highlighting the inspirational women in our midst. Thank you to Pam Scourfield, May Baxter-Thornton, Bev Gulley and Professor Cath Bright.

Music was a theme of the month with concerts by the Cardiff Chamber Choir, Swansea Bach Choir, NPT Colleges Music Academy and Shelley Fairplay and the Dynamic Harps.

Bev was filmed for a local publicity initiative for the Neath Port Talbot (NPT) 'Dramatic Heart of Wales', campaign 'We are NPT'.

The '*Stations of the Cross*' again has been moving, and the soups to follow delicious, thanks to Jan and her helpers in the Drill Hall.



April

The Abbey Gift Shop is now open Tuesday to Sunday, (Monday opening in half terms and school holidays).

Anyone who would like to volunteer, please contact Bev Gulley on 07530 421220.

A big '*Thank You*' is passed to Liz, who maintains our very welcoming Children's corner, which benefits not only children at services, but daily visitors. When the children play, the grown ups can look around, have a cuppa, light a candle, or browse for gifts.

The CADW Stones Museum opens Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Swansea University First year undergraduates visit the Abbey and Stones Museum. Bev to host.

Other events include a Knights Templar Service, mass and lunch for Retired Clergy.

On the 22nd of April we welcome a Cardiff and Nantes Twinning Group for a Theatrical history Tour, with the very talented theatrical players.

Easter Sunday will be the last Mass for Fr Mark and Mthr Ruth, and includes the Baptism of Jools, followed by cake and coffee in the Drill Hall. Later in the week however, they will preside at the Marriage of Huw and Jo, and marriage Blessing of Averil and Bob Williams, in celebration of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

We wish Fr Mark, Mthr Ruth, Anastasia and Simeon, every blessing for their future in Cardiff. Thank you for the last 19 months at the Abbey.

Good luck!

News from St Theodore's

Margaret Griffiths

The 1st March was the World Day of Prayer. This year St Theodore's hosted the service for members of the churches and chapels of Cefn Cribwr, Kenfig Hill, Pyle, North Cornelly and Maudlam. Over 50 people attended a very poignant service with the theme of "I beg you, bear with one another in love". This year's featured country was Palestine, and a table was prepared in the church featuring items associated with that country - olive branches, olive oil, oranges and lemons, cacti and poppies. Heather Vann of St Mary Magdalene church gave a thought-provoking talk and after the service all were welcome to stay for tea/coffee and cake.

As I write this article there is only one more Lent lunch to go at St Theodore's - as is now traditional Fr Jonathan makes the soup on the Wednesday in Holy Week. I am hoping that when all the donations for the lunches are counted up, we will be close to having raised £400 for Christian Aid.



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Easters Past

As we approach Eastertide. I got to thinking about bygone Easters. I don't know how many of you, like me, always had new clothes for Easter Day? One outfit I remember in particular – I must have been in my early teens. I had a new “costume” as we called it – a cream skirt and jacket, accompanied by green accessories, tights and gloves. There was probably a hat too!! I thought I was the bees' knees, but can you see any teenager wearing that today!

On Good Friday there was always a three-hour service in the afternoon – although you didn't have to stay for all of it.

Of course, the ladies of the church would get busy, cleaning and decorating the church for Easter Day.

The Glamorgan Gazette reported in its pages an article on Easter 1910 in St Theodore's and the decoration of the church:

“The church was decorated for Easter with much taste with exquisite flowers from the gardens at Margam (through the kindness of Mr. Milner, head gardener to the Talbot family). The choir rendered special music – the anthem “Therefore with angels”, by Vincent Novella..... There was a record attendance of communicants, the number being 116.”

Down the years it seems that St Theodore's had a good reputation for its music. During the ministry of the Rev John Francis (1919-1939), he increased the numbers attending St Theodore's as was reported in the Glamorgan Gazette of October 1933:

“Complaints from all over the country respecting empty churches have an exception to the rule in St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill, where a remarkable good attendance is to be seen every Sunday. For many weeks past there has been standing room only at service time. The excellent singing has given the choir more than local fame”.

Oh, to have standing room only at services again and a choir capable of singing Stainer's Crucifixion and Bach's St Matthew's Passion, which I remember being performed in my youth.

Wishing you all a Blessed Easter from us at St Theodore's.

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The Family Breakfast

The Mission Group of the Margam Ministry Area started the Family Breakfast in Pyle and Kenfig Church Hall on the 4th of February 2023. Since then it has gone from strength to strength.

We are delighted to announce that the Family Breakfast Team have won two local Citizenship Awards!

The first is Bridgend County Borough Council's Mayor's Citizenship Award 2024. This is an annual award which celebrates the achievements of those who have made an outstanding contribution to life in the Bridgend County Borough.

Congratulations



The second award is the Pyle Community Award in recognition of good service to the local community.

The Awards are being presented at the end of March - full details and photographs will follow in the May issue of this magazine.

On the Saturday before Easter, Fr Jonathan invited the children at the Family Breakfast to help him to make an Easter Garden. It was a lovely session. The children loved doing it and all went home with a palm in readiness for Palm Sunday.



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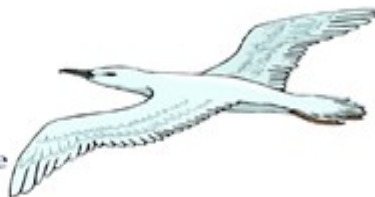
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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"

United in Pilgrimage?

John Berry BEM

I was totally against the idea of parishes amalgamating and wasn't too enthusiastic about the Shared Ministry imposed by the Diocese – mostly because, at a very base level, I'm not sure I really trust those supposedly responsible for the smooth running of the diocese! Having said that, a great part of my life has been given to encouraging churches of different denominations – indeed of other faiths, to work together.

Porthcawl Council of Churches came together in 1964 and has worked hard for the town ever since. It became Churches Together in Porthcawl in 1995, its basis (taken from the constitution) states:

Churches Together in Porthcawl unites in pilgrimage those churches in Porthcawl which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures: and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body, and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the gospel by common witness and service in the world, to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The early days of the Council of Churches is interestingly written up by Reverend Jean Humphreys showing it to have been the beginning of Christian Aid and the work in Porthcawl led by the Baptist and United Reformed Churches.

Churches Together in Porthcawl became a strong, lively and respected body in town. It is now emerging from the ashes of Covid with a new secretariat and Fr. Jonathan as president.

The next general meeting is on Monday 8th April commencing at 6.30pm in the YMCA.

Each church in Porthcawl is entitled to two representatives; anybody interested is welcome to attend.

A Quarter Peal rang out for the RNLI Bi-centenary

Andrew Lingard, Llandaff Bell Ringers

The Porthcawl Lifeboat station opened in April 1860, with the boathouse being built on the promenade, at the entrance to Knights Arms Square.



In 1870, a new lifeboat was bought for the station which required the existing boathouse to be enlarged. A harness room was also included to store equipment for the six horses needed to launch and recover the lifeboat.

In 1887, the station received another new lifeboat. This was used very little with only 9 launches until the station closed in 1902.

Porthcawl Lifeboat Station was closed in 1902 due to the cessation of commercial traffic to the Docks. Since the majority of the stations launches were for commercial traffic, it was deemed unnecessary to have a lifeboat station and the boathouse was sold. After many changes of use, the building is now The BoatHouse Fish Bar, owned and run by one of the current lifeboat crew members.

In 1965, the RNLI re-opened the station and placed on service an experimental inflatable inshore lifeboat. This lifeboat was the first D class, designed to give a rapid response to recreational water users around the coast.

Due to the RNLI selling the old boathouse, the new lifeboat was housed in a lean-to next to Jennings building and the crew were recruited using adverts in the local press.

In 1995, the station's lifeboat rescued a windsurfer in a force 10 gale which resulted in a silver medal being awarded to the helmsman.

In 1996, the RNLI decided that Porthcawl needed a larger boat and a new, purpose-built boathouse was constructed to house a brand new Atlantic 75 and a new Talus MB-4H Tractor launch tractor together with a Do-Do carriage.

In 2022, D-class (IB1) lifeboat (D-861) Hugo Missen replaced relief lifeboat (D-776) Super G II, based at Porthcawl since 2020. The lifeboat has been named in memory of Hugo Joseph Missen, who died of

cancer in December 2016 aged 15 months and was the son of Helm Joseph Missen and his fiancé Jessica Entwistle. Hugo was also the grandson of Porthcawl RNLI's Lifeboat Operations Manager, Philip Missen MBE.

The local Parish Church, St John the Baptist in Newton, has over many years been closely associated with the Lifeboat station with many parishioners serving in support roles and also as crew members. Rev Mark Broadway is a volunteer crew member together with Angharad Masson, Fr Masson's daughter, as well as Ruth Birch, a St John's bell ringer, who is part of the shore crew.

On 18 March 2023, Mark was about to get married in All Saints in Porthcawl when, after 17 minutes a number of RNLI pagers in the congregation burst into life during the ceremony! Luckily he was not on call that day, but several crew members in the congregation were and out they rushed. The 'shout' was to play a part in the rescue of two stranded people near Llantwit Major. After a successful rescue, the crew returned to the wedding celebrations, bringing with them the lifeboat which led to some iconic wedding photos.

During 2023 the Porthcawl Lifeboat has been tasked 65 times, making it the busiest station in Wales.

There is currently a small band of bell ringers at St John's who are regularly assisted during practices by Llandaff branch members and are making progress from rounds/call changes up to plain hunting. The light ring of 8 (8 3/4cwt) sound well and it was a pleasure to ring the recent quarter peal to celebrate the RNLI 200th anniversary. The quarter peal took just over 45 minutes to ring - quite an achievement!

The ringing attracted scores of people to Newton Green as part of this unique celebration. The RNLI crew members displayed one of the lifeboats and associated equipment. The bell ringers enjoyed tea and Welsh-cakes afterwards in the church hall.

If you would like to hear the quarter peal for yourselves, click on the link to the Porthcawl RNLI Facebook page below:

<https://www.facebook.com/porthcawlrnli/videos/797605689093044>



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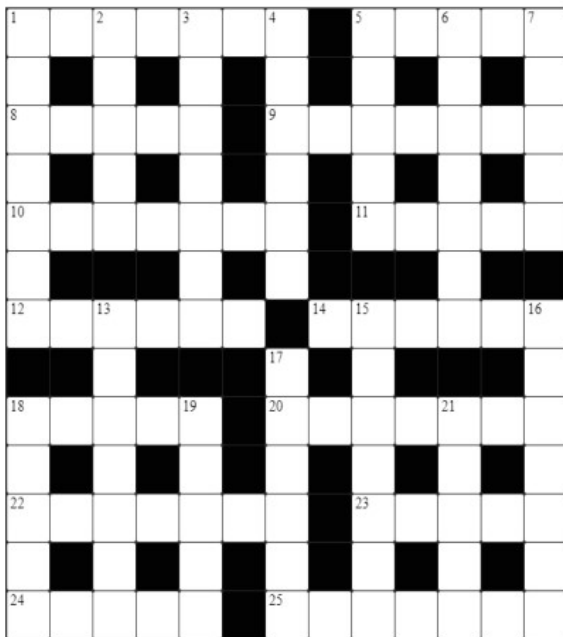
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Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Female singing voice (7)
- 5 Embellish (5)
- 8 Requirements (5)
- 9 Seemliness (7)
- 10 Aerial (7)
- 11 Faint-hearted (5)
- 12 Figure of speech (6)
- 14 Health centre (6)
- 18 Toy bear (5)
- 20 Eastern (anag.) (7)
- 22 Make bigger (7)
- 23 Hospital worker (5)
- 24 Mountain lakes (5)
- 25 Rather old (7)

Down

- 1 Open-toed shoes (7)
- 2 Fold in fabric (5)
- 3 Armoury (7)
- 4 Severe trial (6)
- 5 Racecourse near Windsor (5)
- 6 Rower (7)
- 7 Wanderer (5)
- 13 Interfering person (7)
- 15 Erudite (7)
- 16 Implements for eating (7)
- 17 Cold symptom (6)
- 18 Larceny (5)
- 19 Tales (5)
- 21 Mistake (5)

Quick Crossword Answer (page31)

1	S	O	2	P	R	3	A	N	O	4		5	A	D	6	O	R	7	N
	A		L		R		R		S		A		O						
8	N	E	E	D	S		9	D	E	C	O	R	U	M					
	D		A		E		E		O		S		A						
10	A	N	T	E	N	N	A		11	T	I	M	I	D					
	L				A		L				A								
12	S	13	I	M	I	L	E		14	C	15	C	L	I	N	I	C	16	C
			E					17	S		E								U
18	T	E	D	D	Y			19	N	E	A	R	E	S	T		21		
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	F		E		N		Z		E		O		R						
24	T	A	R	N	S			25	E	L	D	E	R	L	Y				



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Porthcawl CF36 5TB

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Thoughts on Easter *Ann Murphy, 2007*

Oh Holy Season you begin
With birds and flowers in early spring
I greet these days with joy that fills
My thoughts like brightest daffodils

Oh Easter Season full of flowers
Let prayerful thoughts now fill our hours
As we with reverence think upon
This death of Jesus Christ, God's Son

Those city gates with palms alongside
That wooden cross on which Christ died
As deepest sorrows there we met
With tears that we will not forget

Yet Holy Season full of grief
You bring new life to our belief
As we see Christ triumphant reign
Freeing us all from death and pain

Dispelling our wintry thoughts of gloom
As we look at that empty tomb
And "Christ is Risen" we hear them say
Is now the anthem of the day

What holy thoughts are with us still
As we look back to Calvary's Hill
Those memories that linger on
That garden scene, that risen one

New life, new hope, new joy you bring
As we now herald another spring
And in each song and flower we see
What Christ has given to you and me

And even in later summer rain
And when autumn chills us once again
We can still stop and think awhile
Knowing Christ's suffering was worthwhile.

Margam Ministry Area

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

Treasurer:

Dr Paul Smart 01656 788086 pmsmart@aol.com

Safeguarding Officer:

Mr Dave Xerri 07850 129079 dave@xerri.wales

Church subwardens:

All Saints, Porthcawl	Mrs Helen Owen	01656 785763
	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

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St David, Nottage	Clive Edwards	01656784698
St John the Baptist, Newton	Ann Howells	07837 406397
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