

May 2022



M A R G A M

Tyfu Ynghyd yng Nghrist - Growing Together in Christ

60p

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
Saturday: Mass at 09.30

MARGAM ABBEY, Margam

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.00
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
Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Newton

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.00
Evensong at 16.00
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
Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

For details of all other services, visit www.margam.org.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! It's also great that we're finally getting back to "normal" as everything opens up and we start to settle into our usual rhythm.

This issue of the magazine is packed with fresh and lively content. We have news and views from across the Ministry Area as well as contributions from choirs, Mothers' Union and social committees – a great way for us to start getting to know each other better.

There are updates on local support for Ukraine - read about St David's lovely mural too – information on the naming of the new lifeboat and a personal account of the Royal Maundy Money. Our clergy give us plenty to stimulate our minds and get our grey matter working, and there's a giggle or two from Pam's travels with her husband and Pat Parry's contribution of A Tourist Prayer!

I love having your messages and missives along with your contributions. Please do continue to send things in – I'll fit in as much as I possibly can! For the June issue, I'd like to have everything in to me by 20th May, (approximately 350 words per page), thank you.

Enjoy reading these pages – I hope they lift your hearts as they have mine.

Helen Murdoch

*Please send magazine or website contributions to me at:
parish@parishofporthcawl.org or call me on 01656 773645 or 07721 864493.
or by post to 7 Birch Walk, Porthcawl CF36 5AN*

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

WANTED

YOUR HELP

We are looking for people with the following skills, or an interest in being involved in a new type of service in the Ministry Area.

If you or someone you know might be interested please pass on these details. Being a regular worshiper, age or being a professional are not essential.

Band Members - Singer

We are forming a worship group and if you're a musician, instrumentalist or singer who might be interested please get in touch.

Sound Board Operator

If you're interested in sound and have the ability to operate a sound board setup for a service or are interested in learning, please let us know.

Lighting Setup Operator

If you're interested in or have expertise in setting up and operating stage lighting please let us know.

Live Streaming -Filming

Interested or able to live stream services or make small videos for Instagram or Facebook.

Contact James

mmamissiongroup@gmail.com or 07432 483527



Ministry Area of Margam News

We're very pleased to be able to announce that an appointment has been made to Margam Abbey. The new incumbent will be the Revd Mark Greenaway-Robbins, who is currently Ministry Area Leader of the Caerphilly Ministry Area. Before the move to Mas, he was Rector of the Caerphilly Rectorial Benefice for eight years.

Mark's wife, Ruth, is to be ordained deacon at Petertide, and she will serve as a stipendiary curate in this MA from that time.

Mark and Ruth hope to move here in early July, and Mark's licensing should take place within a few weeks of their arrival.

Please keep Mark and Ruth and their family in your prayers as they prepare to begin this new chapter in their ministries, and pray too for the people of Caerphilly.

Ministry Area Diary

The Porthcawl Queen's Platinum Jubilee Music and Flower Festival

Saturday 4th June at All Saints Church. Doors open at 11.30am.
Programme £1

St John's Summer Fayre 2022

Saturday 9th July on Newton Green. Everyone welcome!

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Monday 25 - Thursday 28 July

If you'd like to know more, contact Linda Fletcher on 01656 772014
Names and non-returnable deposit required by May.

Events across the Ministry Area

For details of events across the Ministry Area, visit
www.margam.org.uk

Church Facilities

For full details about the facilities available for hire in each of our churches and for contact details of how to book, visit the various church pages at www.margam.org.uk Booking contacts are also on the back page of this magazine.

Llandaff Diocese Ministries Fair 2022

A free event for all ages in Llandaff Diocese to explore how God is shaping our lives to be alive in Christ each day.

Join us on Saturday 14th May at Margam Abbey from 11:00 to 16:00 for a joyful celebration of discipleship and ministry in the beautiful surroundings of Margam Abbey.

- Explore fresh expressions of ministry
- Discover new ways to live out faith in our daily lives
- Connect with diocesan teams and missional organisations

Read more about our first ever Ministries Fair here -

<https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-blog/ministry-and-discipleship-event-launches-at-margam-abbey/>

To book your **free** tickets click here: [Book on Eventbrite](#)

Ministries Fair is a celebration of discipleship and ministry. It is an opportunity to explore new expressions of doing ministry, and discovering afresh how we may live out our faith in our daily lives.

On the day - Different types of worship will be timetabled throughout the day with a mix of indoor events and outdoors activities such as prayer trails and Forest Church sessions.

Forest Church, Messy Church, Prayer Space, Market Place, Workshops, Meet-up space,

Mothers' Union - Teddy Bears Picnic

Parking - Please park at Margam Country Park main car park. Cost £6.80 per vehicle.

Blue Badge holders should contact Revd. Peter Lewis at peterlewis@churchinwales.org.uk to reserve a parking space.

**Join us for a celebration of
discipleship and ministry in the beautiful
surroundings of Margam Abbey.**

Over Easter, one of the interesting facts I discovered was something relating to Easter Eggs, which I am sure many of you have enjoyed during this great festival! The most popular, apparently, is the Cadbury's Cream Egg with over 500 million manufactured each year, two thirds of which are enjoyed in the UK alone! So that's a staggering 3½ Cadbury Crème Eggs per person in the country! However, the first chocolate Easter Egg produced in the UK was in 1873 by Fry's of Bristol, two years before that of Cadbury's.

Along with enjoying chocolate eggs, the Easter Season provides the opportunity for us to listen afresh to each of the Resurrection Gospel narratives. Each of the four Evangelists describe the events of the resurrection in four different ways - each Evangelist had their own way of telling the story, in accordance with their perception of the Easter faith and that is the way they should be read.

It's been suggested that we should imagine each of the Evangelists is focused on answering the question, where is Jesus now? For Mark, his answer is – He is coming soon, so be ready and stay awake. Matthew proclaims Jesus as Emmanuel, God with us when we meet in his name. For Luke, his answer would be that Jesus is at God's right hand in heaven, pouring forth the Spirit, so that we can preach a Gospel of repentance and forgiveness in his name. Lastly John, his answer would be that Jesus is in us and we are in him, through the power of the Spirit he has breathed upon us.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is absolutely central to the Christian faith. The great theologian Hans Kung in his book, 'On being a Christian,' wrote: 'without Easter, there is no faith, no proclamation, no Church, no worship, no mission.'

So let us rejoice that through the power of the resurrection, all things have been made new. May this renewal inspire us to do what we can to bring about a change for the better in our lives, in our communities and in our world.

Risen Christ, we praise you and we give you thanks for your glory as we celebrate your resurrection. Fill our hearts with your love, so that we too may renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Walk to Freedom – Supporting Ukraine

On Monday 4th April, Mike Hnyda and his two sons, David and Richard, set out from Caernarfon on their Walk to Freedom. They were walking 160 miles from Caernarfon to Porthcawl to echo the Walk to Freedom that Mike's father undertook, aged 16, when he walked 160 miles from his home in Ukraine to the Polish border to escape Russian conscription and join the freedom fighters.

The walk was all about raising money for Ukraine and took the walkers through Snowdonia to Mid Wales and the Brecon Beacons, finishing in Porthcawl Rugby Club on Saturday 9th April.

As Mike explains, "Like many we've felt helpless and useless as the horrors of Russia's unprovoked aggression have unfolded. This was our way to show our support. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated, supported and took the time to walk and celebrate with us on our final leg into Porthcawl, it really is appreciated."

Walk to Freedom - The Results!

*165 Miles Walked

*5096 Metres Climbed

*24,889 Calories Burned

*Over £28,000 Raised So Far

Bridgend Foodbank

Judith Shawe

Many thanks to you all for your continued support - donations are always gratefully received. I am happy to collect any gifts - whether cash or kind. Call me on 01656 786446.

Cash is preferred as then gaps on the warehouse shelves can be filled with what is really needed. May the baked bean mountain be consigned to history! Cash keeps the van on the road, cash pays the rent!

On a serious, if perhaps, naïve note.....Who would have thought that the need for Foodbanks would become more urgent? What a reflection on our 'caring' society that some have to chose between eating or heating

Please continue to help if you can. Thank you.

A Changed people

They were disappointed, grief-stricken and fearful for their own lives. They had seen their friend, their leader, their teacher die a cruel, undeserved death. They had no expectations, no hopes, only a desire to stay together. They did not expect an empty tomb. They certainly did not expect a definitely-dead Jesus to appear to them.

We forget what a shock the Resurrection was (and is). Luke tells us that, even when He did appear, they were fearful and unbelieving. It is easier to dismiss it as 'an idle tale', a fantasy, a conceit. Some among their number did; some, like Thomas, wouldn't accept other peoples' assurances and demanded certain proof. In time, however, most were convinced. Most accepted. Their fear was driven out, their grief assuaged; sorrow and disappointment was replaced by hope and purpose. New life came.

That is what Resurrection does: it offers new life, new hope—not only for when we die but, just as for the apostles and disciples, new life and new hope for to-day. It gave them purpose and direction; it also gave them a new a deeper understanding of their (and, consequently, our) relationship with God through his Son. They learned about the extent of God's love for each one of us, even unto death; this in turn informed their relationship with others—learning to love as He loves us is the key to this new life.

Above all, perhaps, this new life is about change and discovery—the old ways are no longer sufficient, old religious practices become superseded. They still influence us, they are still part of our lives and formation but, in the power of the Spirit, we, like those first discoverers, are being lead into Truth, new understandings and new expressions of faith.

In the end, the new life, the new way is about having faith in God's faith in us and finding where He wants us to be and how He wants us to be -and accepting that His idea might not be the same as ours!

Fr. Philip

Porthcawl Lifeboat Naming Ceremony *Fr Mark*

It was a privilege to be asked to take part in the naming ceremony of Porthcawl Lifeboat's new D Class boat, *D861 Hugo Missen*, on Sunday 24th of April. Those who know the story behind the name will know how meaningful and poignant the naming ceremony was for all the members of Porthcawl Lifeboat.

In short: "Hugo was the son of Helm Joe Missen and his fiancé Jessica Entwistle and was the grandson of Porthcawl RNLI's Lifeboat Operations Manager, Philip Missen MBE. Hugo lost his courageous fight against cancer aged just 15 months in December 2016."

The story can be read in full here:

<https://rnli.org/news-and-media/2022/april/26/porthcawl-rnlis-new-d-class-lifeboat-is-officially-named>

As part of every naming ceremony, the Lifeboat Operations Manager gives a speech, formally accepting the donation of the lifeboat, on behalf of the station. In this instance, due to the personal and emotional significance of the name, the decision was made to ask a member of the crew to deliver the speech on his behalf. I was asked if I would take this role, and I was honoured to do so.

The speech which Philip Missen MBE prepared was powerful, and reminded us of the "light that shines in the darkness".

The naming ceremony involved a number of speeches from various RNLI folk, a reading from the Psalms which another member of the crew delivered, and a formal blessing of the boat and crew which Fr Philip undertook as Chaplain to the station - I think he relished splashing us with Holy Water.

Please do pray for all the members of Porthcawl Lifeboat, and if you are able, please support the work in any way you can.



Getting to Know You

Fr Geoff Lunn

By the time you read this our first Ministry Area-wide Eucharist will have taken place. The choirs joined up again and every one together in All Saints. I hope it is well attended as our faith is about fellowship, amongst other things. It is that 'getting to know you' time for all of us now.

We often close meetings with the grace and when we do, we say "The grace of Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore."

We have a God that gives us glimpses of the godhead via the three in one, the one in three; The Trinity. The prayer we call the grace attributes the revelation of fellowship as being the Holy Spirit. Not that God the Creator or Jesus are devoid of fellowship. Indeed, all three persons of the Trinity exhibit love, grace and fellowship. In writing about the communal nature of God, author and Episcopal priest Tim Jones, writes:

"...that multilayered communion [of the Trinity] doesn't become a clique, doesn't turn inward upon itself; it overflows. It spreads out into an embracing larger whole, inviting others (like you and me!) in, saying, "Come on over." ...God is used to conversation. Used to dialogue. ...ready. This God invites me, in fact, to join in on a conversation already going on, one that has been going on for a very, very long time."

Coming up at the end of Easter Season is Pentecost, a time when God is very much revealed through the Holy Spirit. It not only brings the people in the upper room together as apostles but links them with those stood outside that building. They saw something too and Peter's speech in Acts links, communicates with them. He brings Jesus into his conversation with them.

So whenever we gather in fellowship, especially as a Ministry Area, talk with each other, join in with someone else's conversation and see just where you have common ground. The Trinity is surely in that conversation and that common ground.

One of our great strengths and weaknesses is that we get used to things. It's Sunday so I must be in Church, it's October it must be Harvest. For all of us the inevitability of life can be a tiresome treadmill. I think the pandemic changed this. Churches were closed for long months & normal church activities derailed. Even now people anxiously watch for Covid headlines. But there's no doubt that life is getting back to normal, and maybe there is a greater appreciation of our routines than before.

There is no doubt that the savage violence of Russia against Ukraine has also had a great impact on how we feel. Everyday in the news ordinary people plead to be allowed to live the lives they choose. Many of us have prayerfully and financially supported Ukraine. As well as this, we now appreciate our lives, our freedoms, our safety, more than for a long time.

With this in mind, I feel that there is a greater willingness to allow God to speak to us day by day. People are excited to rejoice in Eastertide, and there is such blessing here. Our next great festival is Pentecost and people have been talking to me about our needs and expectations as we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Our Lord told us that He would send the Holy Spirit as our Comfort and Guide. Covid, Ukraine and many other things often make us uncertain and anxious, we certainly need comfort and guidance. This should raise our expectations. We need Jesus in our lives, for many reasons. It is because of this that the unfolding of the Church Year is so precious and practical.

This area was once a mining community. It even entered the vocabulary when someone says an issue was *at the coal face*, it means that it matters greatly. In this sense our faith is essential and practical. Week by week the Church offers us an opportunity to be blessed by faith in Jesus. Because we live now, no time is more important than our present walk with the Lord. In a world of worrying uncertainty the great prophet Isaiah talked of the rock of faith. I pray that as Eastertide ebbs away we will all have a greater experience of what it is to share in His Resurrection. It is worth remembering that the root meaning of evangelical is experiential. Let us all look forward to experiencing the great sharing of God's grace as remembered in the Church Year.

Fingers Crossed Or Cross of Christ *Fr Geoff Waggett*

How many times have you faced a difficult situation and someone says '*better keep your fingers crossed*'? We hear the expression all the time. We see it on TV. We read it in papers and magazines. We even say it ourselves.

Then there is the other alternative '*touch wood*'. We live in a world of superstition. '*Don't walk under a ladder*', '*don't put crossed knives on the table*', '*watch out for the black cat crossing your path*'. '*Itching hands; left to receive, and right to give*' – or is it the other way round? We even count the number of magpies and assign blessings or curses. O ye of little faith!

As Christians, we should not indulge in such superstition, or become beholden to it. '*Do not be afraid*' is an injunction from God that appears in the Bible some 365 times, but I've never counted. Our only fear should be in the Almighty himself and even then, I prefer the old AV Bible word AWE, to hold in majesty and total respect. We put our trust in him, through his son Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Sunday after Bishop Roy asked me to go and serve in the Afan Valley, I was preaching at St David's in Nottage and the Old Testament reading was Isaiah 43, which included the words 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you' and 'I will be with you'. At my licensing as team Vicar, a few months later, our good friend Dawn Tilt, gave me a beautifully embroidered sampler with those same verses and it hung on my study wall for the next 30 years.

So, let us, as believers in the promises of God, stop being superstitious and stop using demonic expressions and put our complete hope and trust in Jesus our Redeemer. Next time someone says '*Touch wood*' or '*keep your fingers crossed*' have the courage to say, '*No, don't do that, pray to God instead*'.

News from Pyle and Kenfig continued

We are blessed by the Resurrection as we now prepare for the outpouring of the Spirit of God, and just a week later our celebration of our encounter with the Holy Trinity. Great times indeed!

The Ups and Downs of travel with my husband: China – Beijing and Shanghai

Pam Rossini

It was the 90s and both my husband and I longed to go to see the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China, so Beijing, here we come.

We knew nothing of the people, customs or language but all was soon revealed. I soon realised at the hotel that the lens had come out of my specs and needed fixing. So our super-efficient tour operator organised a taxi to take us to an optician to get it sorted. After about 20 minutes the taxi driver with much pointing explained the whereabouts of the opticians. The shop was full with us being the centre of attention and all wanting to help. The ladies were quite fascinated with our western clothing and speech. The specs got fixed and we strolled through the streets before deciding to get a taxi back. Little did we know that our patient taxi driver had been following us all the time so that he was available to take us to the hotel. Only when he shouted to us “I taxi” did it dawn on us and we felt pretty foolish not to have been able to recognise him. This was the sort of humble, honest man that epitomised our journey.

The food in China was not like our unusual Chinese takeaway at home and on the many tours we did a lot of the food was left because we couldn't recognise the many dishes of bits of fish or meat floating in some liquid. Still it was the best they had and with some extras from home i.e. biscuits etc. we managed.

The parks were well used with tai chi in the morning with many of the older generation, some bringing along their songbirds. We went Tiananmen Square one morning and saw the young people flying kites, a few young boys, no girls and the boys with western bomber jackets which must have been a status symbol.

Wherever we went the people were helpful and courteous and wanted to know of western life whenever a young student could understand some English. The Forbidden City is an enormous maze of palaces, statues and wonderful architecture, a step back in time to another era.

A few hours away from the hotel was the section of the Great Wall

that we would be allowed to walk. This area was very busy with young and old struggling up the steps of this gargantuan edifice.

During our stay we saw many more ancient and beautiful places. We found the people gentle and enquiring, no western hotels, no western takeaways, what a difference when two years later when we went to Shanghai.

Shanghai is a bustling, bright lights city on the banks of Huang Pu river and its heart is The Bund. It's the financial heart of China, so where Beijing was the cultural city of China, Shanghai had a very different vibe.

There were more cars on the road, fewer bicycles, large banks and insurance buildings along The Bund, one of several McDonalds and a few American hotels. We visited what was called "The Friendly Store". This was unlike anything we had seen before, the place was awash with every kind of extravagance you could desire. Whether it was gold-framed spectacles, sable furs or carved jade figures – all was here.

This store was for the tourist or the top politicians of the day and there was always a fleet of blacked-out people carriers outside in the parking area.

We went on several trips, one to a school for young musicians, these youngsters 7-10 years were motivated by their parents to work and improve their lives. Our young student tour operator was only allowed to show us certain areas and not allowed to discuss certain things, life was controlled.

A new way of life was coming, the girls wearing make-up and western dress and longing to know more. What would be in store.....

We Will Remember Them

75 years ago on 23rd April, 47 lives were lost in the Mumbles Lifeboat and Samtampa disaster. Fr Philip led a service at the memorial plaque on Sker Point at 5.12pm (which marks the time the Samtampa first grounded at Sker Point) in remembrance of the eight crew of the Mumbles Lifeboat who gave the ultimate sacrifice and the 39 crew of the Liberty ship Samtampa who perished.

All Saints Easter Choir

Peter Owen



Easter is always chorally our busiest time of year with four consecutive days of special services.

This year we were blessed to be wonderfully supported at the organ by two of our much-loved past organists. Daniel played for us on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, followed by Alex on Saturday Vigil and Easter Day, with Isaak in reserve. They each provided movingly meaningful musical leadership which was hugely appreciated by everyone. Much gratitude too to our choristers for such reliable and unstinting support and to our four dear bass and tenor friends for bringing such a welcome boost to our efforts on Easter Sunday.

Our first Ministry Mass on the following Sunday was well attended by choristers from St Theodore's, St Mary Magdalene's, Margam Abbey, St John's and St James', in addition to All Saints. We were brilliantly led at the organ by David-Lloyd of St Theodore's and this made for a very happy and memorable service.



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News from All Saints

Pam Rossini



During Lent we have all tried to keep it special in different ways, but I hope that while we may be keeping to our promises that we will remember to pray for Ukraine, remember their sacrifices and courage and pray for light to overcome the darkness.

Lent lunches every Wednesday after morning prayer were varied. Varied in that we never knew how many people would turn up and varied in the variety of soups served! We found that Fr Philip made delicious soups and always sold out. There were a few mysteries that came out of the freezer - they turned out not to be soup at all and are still a mystery!

We had some regulars, a lovely couple of ladies from Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, some from St David's and Newton, all were welcome and we hope they enjoyed it.

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Ieuan Walters, a stalwart of the choir and a real gentleman. His cheery manner and wonderful bass voice will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret, and Helen and Michael and the family.

Easter Sunday morning with the church looking flowery and festive and the sun shining through the windows was perfect. A day to celebrate our Lord. The church was full with many visitors and relations of parishioners. All was joyful. Many of us had the great pleasure of lunch in the church hall. Tickets were almost sold out and a goodly amount of money (over £700) has again been given to support Ukraine.

The busy bees team of Maggie, Jane and their helpers included some very efficient young people selling raffle tickets. The food was, as usual, outstanding and marvellous value. How do they do it?

Keep up the high standard and keep taking your energy pills. Bravo!

How wonderful it was to see All Saints full at the Ministry Area Mass last Sunday - and a delight to have an extended choir with choristers from the other churches. It was a lovely service and a good opportunity to make new friends over coffee afterwards.

St David's Junior Church

Catherine Powell

Good Friday saw the return of two traditions for the junior church following the pandemic restrictions. Following the Good Friday service, we were able to serve the congregation coffee and hot cross buns. The members of the congregation were really pleased to be able to sit with refreshments and chat with one another once again.

When everyone had gone Gil, Catherine and James embarked on a new mural for the church hall wall, another longstanding Good Friday tradition. However well prepared we are, it can take many hours with lots of cutting and gluing & the odd sprinkle of environmentally friendly glitter! The biggest headache can be the inspiration in the first place. It is a mural that needs to speak to all hall users throughout the year. This year, with the Ukrainian troubles on all our minds, the image of the mural came quite easily with the Ukrainian flag and national flower, the sunflower, being combined. Then came the debate of the quotation. Gil saw the words of an unlikely source for her but they spoke volumes and we hope will resonate with everyone.

'when the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace'

Jimi Hendrix



News from St David's



Pat Parry

Happy Easter to everyone.

For various reasons, David and I have missed the Holy Week Services but were pleased to be back for Easter day. The church was full, and it was nice to see some children and young people in the congregation. The flowers and Easter Garden with the empty tomb and the bright sunshine of Spring give us fresh hope. 'He is Risen'. We sang the Mass for the first time in over two years and hope now to continue every week.

It is also nice to see people's faces without masks although the virus is still about. David had it on our return from holiday and is still not fully recovered although is on the mend.

We look forward to meeting up with others from the new Margam Ministry area in the near future.

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News from St John's *Diane Jackson*



Easter Day dawned bright and fresh and what a joy it was to be greeted with the bells ringing out. Again on entering the church, we met with another stunning display of flowers. After the austerity of Lent, it felt Spring and the start of a new year was with us. Our thanks to all the ladies of the Flower Guild for their time and talent. Also to Barry for all his assistance in so many ways. On behalf of the Flower Guild, thank you to all who donated towards the lilies and flowers; without your donations it is not possible to decorate the church with fresh flowers.

It was so good to see that both services on Easter Day were well attended. It was another sign of normality. Hopefully we can soon be receiving the sacrament at the altar rather in the pew. By being able to approach the altar, it does make the oblation that much more special.

Easter Day also marked exactly 6 months until the Rector retires. Hopefully the next 6 months will be a time of great joy and happy memories, added to the existing ones, for the Rector.

Since the last magazine, we were very sorry to hear that after years of ill health, Mark Schofield passed away. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Jayne and children, George and Jessica, also to his mother Jean who sadly also lost her husband only a few months earlier.

We were all shocked to hear that Eileen Thomas had suddenly passed away. Eileen had for very many years been both a member and treasurer of the Flower Guild. Our deepest sympathy goes to Gareth, her son Jonathan and all the family.

Finally, as I mentioned in last month's magazine, I was attending this year's Maundy Thursday Service, held in St George's Chapel Windsor, as a guest of my cousin William, who was one of the recipients.

It was a wonderful occasion in so many ways. The service was due to start at 11am and we had to be seated by 10.15. Having passed thought security, we entered the Chapel and were guided to our allocated seats which were in the North Aisle of the Chapel.



The recipients were all in the front row, with their panions sitting immediately behind. Whilst we were entertained with some beautiful organ music.

The programme we were all given, provided the exact timetable of what would be happening in the lead up to the service. At 10.20 the High Almoner (the Bishop of Worcester), addressed us, explaining what was going to happen. The Prince of Wales, on behalf of her Majesty the Queen, would be giving each recipient 2 bags of coins. On receipt, the beneficiary was to bow and say thank you. The Bishop said there was no need to give anything back – one year, having handed over the Maundy money a lady gave the queen a jar of marmalade!

This was followed by the arrival of the Yeomen of the Guard, then the minor clergy and the choirs of St George's Chapel and the Chapel Royal from St James' Palace who all processed to their places.

Finally at exactly 11am we all stood for the first hymn with the arrival of the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, senior clergy and the children of the Almonry, who all held nosegays. They entered through the North Door and processed down the North Aisle, immediately in front of us.

The Maundy Money was distributed in two parts by the Prince of Wales, the South aisle first with a reading in between and then the North aisle, for which we had to stand throughout.

It was a beautiful service in a packed Chapel. Very Anglican with traditional readings and prayers and the music and singing was superb, in particular Zadok the Priest.

Afterwards, we were invited to a reception in the State Apartments where we were served wine or soft drinks and canapes. The apartments were closed to the public and we were free to wander and explore them at our leisure. Sadly no member of the Royal family attended. However, we were made very welcome by the clergy and other people who worked in various ways in the castle.

I am enclosing details of the origins and background to the Maundy Money which I hope you will find interesting - *read it on Page 31.*



Margam Abbey Mothers' Union

Helen Fidler, Branch Leader

Although we have met informally during the last few months, Monday 22nd March 2022, was the first of our meetings held in our new venue, The Abbot's Kitchen at Margam Abbey.

During the difficult two years of the pandemic, we have lost five faithful members, namely Nan Preston, Sylvia Westlake, Stephanie Nicholas, Susan Thomas and Betty Jones. They are all sadly missed.

On a happier note, we have welcomed three new members: Pam Schofield, Jen Waggett and Bev Gulley.

Hilda and John Preece, have recently left their home in Ten Acre Wood, Margam and moved to Cardiff. Hilda was a stalwart member of the Mothers' Union, having served as Branch Leader & Secretary and her contribution over many years has been immense. We wish her and John, every happiness in their new home.

Our new member, Pam, gave a most interesting and enjoyable talk which began with an explanation of the history of the MBE; an award given to people from all walks of life who have given outstanding service to their communities. Pam's award was given in recognition of her services to education. This was followed by a lively description of her day in Windsor Castle, where she was presented with her medal by Princess Anne in November 2021.

The meeting was followed by a party to celebrate Helen's 80th Birthday. It was a lovely occasion, attended by not only MU members but also by many friends from Margam Abbey, who presented her with beautiful flowers, gifts and cards. Thank you so much for your kindness and good wishes.

We are fortunate to have a full programme for the rest of the year. We meet at 2pm on the third Monday of each month (apart from August) in the Abbot's Kitchen. All are very welcome.

For more information, contact me on 01656 785605.

News from Margam Abbey *Bev Gulley*



After a busy Holy Week, it was lovely to see a well-attended Easter Sunday and welcome back some of our younger families. The Easter flowers were a joy, thanks to Mair John for her beautiful arrangements and Anne Evans and Catherine Radcliffe for the Easter Garden. The Abbey has been brimming with visitors, with children busy colouring in Easter pictures for the display boards.

Congratulations to Laura and Keith who married in the Abbey at the end of April; we wish you every happiness for your future. Age Connects visited recently for a talk on *'The Monks of Margam'* and cream tea in the Church Hall, courtesy of Cwm Brombil Ladies WI. A good time was had by all.

Following Wednesday Mass at 10am, it is nice that we can again, enjoy a cuppa and fellowship.

Looking forward to May - Good luck to Katya and James for their Wedding Blessing. We welcome Baglan Townswomen's Guild and Glyncorwg WI for tours, and a visit from the British Archaeological Association.

Mother's Union is on the 16th May at 2pm, when the talk will be: 'Bargain Hunt to Flog it: Our Auction Fix!'

A huge Happy 90th Birthday to Malcolm Wills on 6th May. Malcolm has been a faithful Verger at the Abbey for many years, with an awe-inspiring knowledge of its history. Malcolm & Anne recently celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Congratulations.

We are delighted that the Abbey is being used for the Ministries Fair, on 14th May and look forward to welcoming everyone.

On Sunday, Fr Jon announced the appointment of Rev Mark Greenaway-Robbins to Margam Abbey. Mark will be moving here in early July and his licensing should take place within a few weeks of his arrival. Mark's wife, Ruth, is to be ordained deacon at Petertide and she will serve as a stipendiary curate in this Ministry Area from then.

We will keep them in our prayers and look forward to welcoming them both very soon.

Maudlam Church Choir Pam Kelly



There is nothing better than the sound of music led by a Choir... and in the ancient church of St Mary Magdalene there has been a Church Choir for many, many years.

During the last 60 years, the Choir was led by Mr Ken Williams who recently passed away. Ken was the Choirmaster for many years and encouraged Choristers to work towards accreditation with the Royal College of Church Music.

During the 1990's, the Choir was led by Mrs Ceri Roberts and during this time they proudly made their own "cassette" which sold many copies. It still remains on the shelves of many of those choristers to this day! Mr Allan Brookes was instrumental in making this successful production happen.

For over 50 years, Ms Kathryn Page was the Head Choir girl and Kathryn, along with her mother Connie, made our Choir robes with much love and care.

We are, therefore, a small Choir built on the foundations of many years of tradition, a heartfelt love for music and with a passion for singing our praises to the Lord.

We are now small in number but big in heart. Our wonderful organist Mr Paul Greenway leads our music and our members are Julia Jones, Amanda Davies, Jan, Jackie Burrows, Greta Richards, Erlys Williams and myself Pam Kelly.

Here's to the future of Church Choirs within the Ministry Area and to joining together on special occasions to sing praises to the Lord.

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 James & St Mary Magdalene *Vanessa Evans*

Our churches have always held a full programme of social events and we have all missed this essential part of Christian fellowship during the past two years. It is so good to be able to plan ahead and look forward to coming together in a social gathering once again.

Despite restrictions, we have, however, held many fundraising events which were not entirely just to raise funds! The main aim was to give everyone a sense of normality and feeling of continuity when life often seemed so unsure because of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

We held Christmas Makes & Bakes, a Summertime Complete Garden Party Pack, St. David's Day Mini-Bakes and Harvest Bake-ins, along with other events where we displayed a range of home-made crafts, cakes and preserves which could be ordered by phone. A pick-up date was arranged and ready-packed orders were collected from our church hall (observing all government rulings). Since March 2020, a total of £4500 has been raised - but the essential part was to give a sense of reassurance that "life goes on" despite the pandemic.

And now with the war in the Ukraine we have another goal - to raise funds to help those brave and innocent people whose lives have been shattered beyond measure. Our prayers are constantly with everyone involved in this awful conflict but funds are needed too, so, when Martyn asked if we could arrange a fundraiser, we put our thinking hats on once again.

Our wonderful Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir agreed to give a concert, tickets were designed and printed without charge by our local Community & District Development Trust and we are ready to put our baking aprons back on to provide a buffet supper.

The generosity and desire to help those less fortunate than ourselves was shown when all tickets were sold within days and on April 25th we will once again join together in Christian unity for our Concert for Ukraine.

The Tourist Prayer *Submitted by Pat Parry, St David's*

Heavenly Father, look down on us your humble obedient tourist servants, who are doomed to travel this earth taking photographs, mailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

We beseech you, oh Lord, to see that our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed at the check-in.

Give us this day, divine guidance in the selection of our hotels, that we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up and hot water running from the taps.

Lead us, dear Lord, to good inexpensive restaurants, where the food is superb, the waiters friendly and wine included in the price of the meal.

Give us wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand. Forgive us for under-tipping out of ignorance and over-tipping out of fear. Make the natives love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their worldly goods.

Grant us the strength to visit museums, the palaces and castles listed as 'musts' in the guidebooks. And if, perchance, we skip an historical monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us for our flesh is weak.

FOR THE MEN/HUSBANDS

Dear Lord, keep our wives from shopping sprees and protect them from bargains they don't need or can't afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

FOR THE LADIES/WIVES

Almighty God, keep our husbands from looking at the foreign women and comparing them to us. Save them from making fools of themselves in cafes and nightclubs. Above all, do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

FOR EVERYONE

And when our voyage is over and we return to our loved ones, grant us the favour of finding someone who'll look at our home movies and listen to our stories, so our lives as tourists will not have been in vain.

News from St Theodore's

Margaret Griffiths

I hope you all had a happy and Blessed Easter. Many thanks to those who donated flowers to decorate the church and the Easter garden.

St Theodore's had the pleasure of celebrating the baptism of Keith and Margaret Hopkin's great grandchild on Easter Sunday. The family then continued their celebrations with a buffet following the service, provided by our in house caterer, James.

Holy Week this year was very special as it gave all in the Margam Ministry Area an opportunity to worship together and perhaps visit a church they had never been to before. A member of our congregation commented that the Easter Vigil at Margam Abbey was particularly memorable.

We were very pleased with the attendance at our fashion show featuring Samantha B of Ewenny. Over 70 people attended. We also had a stall selling items from our charity shop, Theo's. The proceeds of the raffle on the evening - £300 - were donated to the Ukraine Appeal.

If you read this before the 29th April, you'll have a chance to book a ticket to our "Lasagne, lyrics and laughter" evening with comedian/singer Dennis Lang providing the entertainment. Tickets can be booked online at www.margam.org.uk If not, we'll tell you all about it next month!

On 10th May we welcome Cheryl from Goldies Cymru to St Theodore's for another of the monthly sing-a-long sessions. Cheryl leads the group in singing popular songs from the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Booklets with the words are provided and those who attend take turns to choose which songs to sing. So if you know anyone who would enjoy these friendly informal gatherings let them know - it's not a choir!! These sessions have proven to be particularly beneficial for those affected by dementia. The sessions start at 11.00 am and last for an hour, ending with a cuppa!

In the next Margam Ministry Area magazine we will be able to tell you how we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee!

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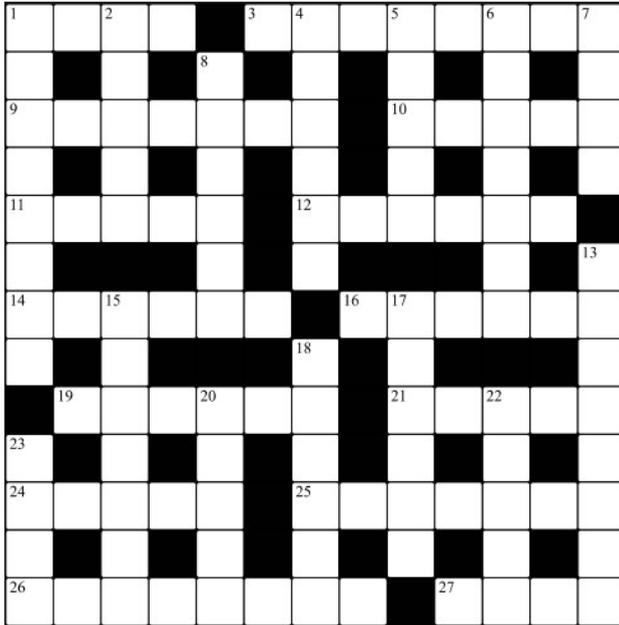
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Porthcawl CF36 5TB

Tel/Fax: 783270

e-mail: belleviemason@live.co.uk

Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Norse god of thunder (4)
- 3 Sea between Italy and the Balkans (8)
- 9 Doubter (anag) (7)
- 10 Owner of a Scottish estate (5)
- 11 Illuminated (3,2)
- 12 Nearer (6)
- 14 Small and dainty (6)
- 16 Informal French restaurant (6)
- 19 Edible shellfish (6)
- 21 Primary (5)
- 24 Indian monetary unit (5)
- 25 Pungent gas (7)
- 26 Without mercy (8)
- 27 Conspiracy (4)

Down

- 1 Barchester Towers author (8)
- 2 Group of 8 performers (5)
- 4 Soak (6)
- 5 Inuit abode (5)
- 6 Three-pronged spear (7)
- 7 Yield formally (4)
- 8 Marionette (6)
- 13 Become smaller (8)
- 15 Brass instrument (7)
- 17 Notoriety (6)
- 18 Constantly (6)
- 20 Take unlawfully (5)
- 22 Of the kidneys (5)
- 23 Support (4)



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The History of the Royal Maundy

Distribution and Gifts

Submitted by Diane Jackson,

from the 2022 Royal Maundy Money Service Programme

The distribution of alms & washing of the feet on Thursday of Holy Week are of great antiquity. The Royal Maundy can be traced back in England with certainty to the 13th century, and there are continuous records of the Distribution having been made on Maundy Thursday from the reign of King Edward I. The first recorded Royal Distribution was at Knaresborough, North Yorkshire by King John in 1210.

From the 15th century, the number of Recipients has been related to the years of the Sovereign's life. At one time, Recipients were required to be of the same sex as the Sovereign, but since the 18th century they have numbered as many men and women as the Sovereign has years of age. Recipients are now pensioners selected because of the Christian service they have rendered to the Church and community.

The Distribution is in two parts and the gifts which are handed to the Recipients are symbolic. This year the Red Purse contains a £5 coin and a 50p coin portraying The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Both coins have been minted in 2022. Historically, this sum of £5.50 in the Red Purse is made up of £3 for clothing, £1.50 in lieu of provisions and £1 for the redemption of the Sovereign's gown which, before Tudor times, used to be divided between the Recipients.

The White Purse contains uniquely minted Maundy Money. This takes the form of one, two, three and four silver penny pieces, the sum of which equals the number of years of the Monarch's age. This year, ninety-six pennies of silver coins (9 sets of 10p per set and two theepences) will be distributed.

Though the act of washing the feet seems to have been discontinued in about 1730. the Lord High Almoner and his assistants are still girded with linen towels in remembrance, and carry the traditional nosegays of sweet herbs. Some of the linen towels worn at this year's Service date from 1883, with new towels made in 1993 and 2003. New linen towels for the Children of the Royal Almonry were made at Buckingham Palace in 2011.

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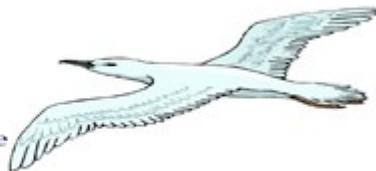
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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"

Quick Crossword Answer

1	T	H	2	O	R	3	A	4	D	R	5	I	6	A	7	T	I	C
	R		C		P		R		G		R		E					
9	O	B	T	R	U	D	E		10	L	A	I	R	D				
	L		E		P		N		O		D		E					
11	L	I	T	U	P		12	C	L	O	S	E	R					
	O				E		H										13	C
14	P	E	15	T	I	T	E		16	B	17	I	S	T	R	O		
	E		R					18	A		N							N
		19	M	U	S	20	S	E	L		21	F	I	22	R	S	T	
23	P		M		T		W		A		E		R					
24	R	U	P	E	E		25	A	M	M	O	N	I	A				
	O		E		A		Y		Y		A		C					
26	P	I	T	I	L	E	S	S		27	P	L	O	T				

"Soul-Satisfied People"

Submitted by John Berry BEM - 'sent from an Indian friend, now retired and back home'

I was waiting at the bus stand to go to my hometown. Seeing me, a girl of about 10 came and said, "Sir, please buy these pens, I will give you 4 pens for Rs10. I am very hungry, I will get to eat something." There was a little boy with her, maybe her brother.

I said, "Well I don't need a pen." Her next question was so sweet, "Then how will we eat something?" I said, "I don't want a pen, but you will definitely eat something."

I had two packets of biscuits in my bag. I took out both packets and handed one to each of them. But I was surprised beyond limit when she returned one packet and said, "Sir Ji! One is enough, we will share it." I was utterly surprised to hear this! I said again, "It's okay, you keep both. It doesn't matter." That girl's reply shook me to my core, my soul. She said, "Then what will you eat?"

In this world, where people earning so much keep humanity aside and rob people wildly in the name of success, a hungry girl taught me the ultimate lesson of humanity. I said to myself, this is what soul-satisfied people look like....Don't take so much from someone out of greed that we eat their share as well!

Pause for Thought

More

The more of everything you share -
the more you'll always have to spare

The more you love -
the more you'll find
that life is good
and friends are kind

For only what we give away
Enriches us from day to day.





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

Treasurer:

Dr Paul Smart	01656 788086	pmsmart@aol.com
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