



Margam

Ministry Area Magazine



November 2023



Jam and Jerusalem

Margam Ministry Area Jam's and Chutney's

Ideal for Christmas

St Mary's Church
Tresco Bay, Porthcawl
The A-Rangefruit of the church was created by its original members as a memorial to a young boy who died in the 1940s.

St John the Baptist Church
Newtown, Porthcawl
An important Grade I medieval parish church with many surviving medieval fabric and an especially fine medieval chancel and stone pulpit.

All Saints Church
Porthcawl
The church was built in 1912, to replace the 17th century church which was destroyed by the Welsh of 1841.

St Theodore's Church
Kenfig Hill
Thanks to the patronage of the Talbot family of Margam, St Theodore's Church was opened in 1889, to serve the growing mining village of Kenfig Hill.

Margam Abbey
Margam
Loved grade 1 as the surviving part of the 12th century abbey.

St David's Church
Rocegas, Porthcawl
The present church was consecrated on 15th November 1922. This replaced a small wooden church building erected in 1948.

St Mary Magdalene Church
Haverhill, Bridgend
United as part of an ambitious scheme to provide a new parish, with a new church, in 1960.

Margam Calling
Margam Calling was started in October 2022 as a modern service for the whole Ministry Area of Margam. Margam Calling's home is St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill.

St James Church
Pyle
Grade I listed church which still largely retains its medieval fabric and features, and with a very fine medieval roof.

COMING SOON

Jam and Jerusalem
Margam Ministry Area
Take a jam journey through our Ministry Area and discover our churches and things to do at them
www.margam.org.uk

Reflections and Remembrances

What a great issue to put together. Thank you to all our contributors. It has been such a pleasure to include so many articles from across the Ministry Area.

Of course, new contributors are always welcome, so if you have something you'd like to add, please get in touch.

Which prompts me to ask you a question – is there anything you'd like to see in future issues and is there anything you'd rather not have? This is YOUR magazine, so have a think about what you'd like more of and what you'd like less of – let me know and we'll see how we can adjust things for 2024!

A key theme for this month is remembrance. I'm sure, like me, you're looking forward to your local Remembrance Service. Being able to share those moments together and remember loved ones who have died and those who sacrificed their lives to ensure our freedom is very special. This year is perhaps even more poignant with the ongoing war in Ukraine and the awful events in Israel and Palestine.

Of course, with Christmas just around the corner, I anticipate a packed December issue. Please let me have your announcements, news or stories by 20th November – we don't want to be late for Christmas! And your photos are welcome too, so please send them in.

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: Margam Abbey parishioners donated 130.2kg/287lbs items to Port Talbot Foodbank - well done everyone!

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
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 18.00
NOTE: from 29 October 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

ST MARY'S, Trecco Bay

Saturday: Mass at 18.00

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

Dear Friends,

As we enter the month of November, we once again embark on the season of Remembrance as we celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us. The feast of All Saints, the Commemoration of All Souls and Remembrance Sunday each provide a focus for us to pray and give thanks for those who inspired and encouraged us on our walk of faith.

As Christians, the concept of remembrance is at the heart of our worshipping life together. As on the night before he died, Jesus broke bread and shared wine in anticipation of his death and asked that we do this in remembrance of him. This sacramental act of remembrance which we know as the Eucharist is our greatest treasure, which is why it is so central to our worship each week.

So, as we enter this season of remembrance, we will once again have an opportunity to commend our departed loved ones and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, to God's continuing care. We all need hope and reminders that death is not the end, as Jesus promised his followers the hope of eternal life.

'Jesus said: It is God's will that I should lose not even one of those he has given me, but should raise them all up on the last day.' John 6.39

May this remembrance season, be a time to reflect and be thankful for the past. To learn from mistakes made in the past and look forward to the future with hope.

"On All Saints Day, we are reminded that death is not the end, but a transition to eternal life in the presence of God."

With prayerful best wishes,

Fr. Jonathan



The Power of Memory

Mthr Ruth Greenaway-Robbins

He took bread and broke it, gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

Recently I went to Scotland for a long weekend. As I boarded my train in Port Talbot, I wore a light coat, but as my son reminded me the weather is a little cooler north of the border so bring your warm clothes. I barely believed him. It was beautiful as I left South Wales, I couldn't imagine it being different. However, I am glad I did, for as I stepped off that train in Edinburgh I entered into the joys of a few days of weather warnings of torrential wind and rain. Not a problem, I had a marvellous time but, by golly, I was cold. Now when I called home, all I heard was of weather in the early to mid 20's. South of Manchester it appears you were all having marvellous weather, a last hurrah of the summer, ice creams at the ready. We both lived and enjoyed particular experiences, you with the heat, me with the cold and wet. Both were true, both were reality, both were happening.

Whilst I was visiting the north, Hamas attacked and killed many innocent people in Israel. Over the weeks to come Israel responded with force upon the Palestinian people of the Gaza strip, and I have found myself reflecting on truths and reality being so complicated and far from linear. The conflict and tensions in the Holy Land are perplexing and we must be careful, as those on the outside, to avoid making sweeping statements and ill-understood judgements. But what is clear is that it is a conflict with at least two sides - lived out in the lives of the people of the Holy Land and reflected in all their stories, which are rooted in fear and anger. All feel misunderstood and unheard - by one another and by the world who look on at their plights. To the people of Israel and Palestine both their stories are true, both are their reality, both are happening.

We are in the season of remembering within the Church - All Saints and All Souls, Remembrance Day, even heading toward Advent and Christmas. There is much ritual and prompting which causes deeper remembering at this time of year. Memory is a strange beast. If you

ask someone about a memory especially one you might share, you will hear perhaps similar stories, but equally different accounts because each person lived them. Life in all its conflicts, all its joys, all its passion and pain will hold differing accounts of that memory. People will suggest a particular truth in it, and we, by human nature, stand firm by our truths – much of life seems to be the working out and living alongside all our individual truths.

As communities of faith, we come together each week at the altar where we remember the moment that Jesus shared the last supper with his disciples. Living out the scriptures “He took bread and broke it, gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” As churches we celebrate and memorialise this sacramental act, acknowledging that through the breaking of bread we are transformed by the death and resurrection of Christ for us through God’s redeeming love. We do this with a regularity of faithfulness, we hold in our individual and collective body of faith a memory within one another - a little like a somatic memory where we are touched by the shared act, changed by it, and are also left with an imprint within our body of faith of brokenness and healing within the mystery of God.

What we each individually experience in that moment of communion is different but yet is also shared. We might believe quite different doctrinal things within the Eucharist, and yet we are united in the act of taking bread and breaking it together. What each of us believes within the church’s teaching is valid, is true, and is real to us, and yet in our differences we are united in the moment of breaking bread. These are the beauties and the tensions of the life of faith lived with one another. The moments where we each hold truths within memories that are shared and lived out individually. Holding these truths can be a burden and a joy of faith within community but it is what binds us together in the radical love of God, in our differences, borne out in learning, and listening, even though it is costly, for we live as broken people, united by Christ breaking himself for us.

As we all pray for our brothers and sisters in Israel and Palestine,

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Continued from Page 7

as we pray for all places of conflict, all families, friends & communities in struggle, let us remember as people of faith that a place of healing, wholeness, and discourse of the heart begins with acknowledging each person and community in their truth - each community having a personal reality, and each having an experience that is real. The hard work comes as we and they unravel these things to find common ground. This is hard, painful, and takes courage, and these are things we can hold in prayer and offer to God. Where our faith serves us is in being bold in holding the tension and holding the pain with deep listening, for these things cause us to find love for one another in the midst of the brokenness.

Bishop Mary's Prayer for Peace

God of all,
hear the prayers of all who cry for deliverance
from fear, crisis, violence and war.
May the peoples of the Middle East
feel the hope of peace.
May the injured, distressed, and bereaved
know your presence and healing.
We pray for all who lead others,
that your ways of justice, mercy and peace might prevail,
and that the dignity and value of every life be recognised.
Help us to be faithful and compassionate,
lead us to live as signs of your hope.
In Jesus' name. Amen.





Christmas



CRAFT

*Luxury Wreath Making - £40

Friday 24th Nov - St David's Church, Nottage @ 7pm
Refreshments available
Catherine - 07885 834740

*Christmas Cake Decorating - £15

Thursday 30th Nov - All Saints Hall @ 2pm
Refreshments available
Carolyn - 07970 508233

*Christmas Bulb Planting - £15

Wednesday 13th Dec - St Theodore's Church @ 12.15pm
Refreshments available
Christine - 07801 942870

The Cenotaph

Ruth Birch

At the end of the 'Great War' the British War Cabinet decided that a day of celebration would be held to mark the signing of the Peace Treaty on 28th June 1919. A programme of festivities would be organised including, as the high point, a victory parade.



The French were holding their parade on 14th July and arranged for their troops to march past a 'great catafalque' erected beside the Arc de Triomphe. On their march past they would salute in honour of their war dead. The catafalque would be dismantled after the parade.

Lloyd George, known as 'the man who had won the war', attended the parade and was deeply impressed by the historical ceremony. He knew there was a need for a point of homage to stand as a symbol of remembrance worthy of the reverent salute of an Empire mourning for its million dead.

Sir Edward Lutyens, an eminent architect, was asked to design a non-denominational structure for the parade, to be designed and built in two weeks. The word cenotaph derives from the Greek words *kenos* meaning empty and *taphos* meaning tomb. The temporary wood and plaster structure was unveiled on 19th July 1919 and, later that day, the troops of the victorious nations marched past the Cenotaph in solemn silence with the King acknowledging the parade.

With the parade barely over, it was requested that a permanent memorial to the fallen of the Great War be erected on the same site.

The Cenotaph is of Portland stone and represents a tomb on a pedestal. Deliberately omitted is any religious symbol because those it commemorates were of all creeds and none. The cost was £7,325, with Lutyens declining his fee. The Cenotaph was unveiled on 11th November 1920 by King George V. The ceremony was combined with a ceremony to mark the passing of the unknown warrior for re-burial at Westminster Abbey.

The first annual ceremony took place the following year and since that time the ceremony has been the national focus for commemorating the British people's war dead.

Enjoying Life – further cogitations

John Berry BEM

Some years ago at a GP appointment for blood results the doctor (long since retired and still missing his patients!) greeted me with “How are you?” I responded, “Fed up.” He looked a little surprised, continued tapping away on the computer and muttered something about it not being in his remit. He then asked why; I said I was fed up with not being allowed to grow old gracefully – that was definitely not in his remit!

We discussed the results and what treatment might be needed and to meet again in a month’s time. We chatted about the general malaise of the town and the world and as I was leaving he looked up and said, “You know, if you can’t grow old gracefully, you could enjoy life and grow old disgracefully!”

A month later at the follow-up appointment I told him I had taken his advice, but had to jog his memory about what he had said – in jest. He grinned broadly as I told him I had ordered a new car, a red one, and hanged two new paintings in my lounge, both nudes! He expressed some concern about the car as at that time it was recognised that red cars were involved in more than 50% of road accidents. I didn’t have an accident in the 3 years driving the red car.

John Murphy had given me one of the paintings. I had told John about the conversation with the doctor and a few weeks later he and I went to London for the day to visit the new Tate Modern. We both had a major interest in what the architect had done to the building. We had an enjoyable day visiting the National Gallery and the Portrait Gallery.

On the way home, we had crossed the bridge back into Wales and John was saying how much he’d enjoyed the day. We agreed we didn’t think much of the paintings in Tate Modern, but were impressed with the conversion of the building. John then commented that he could see I enjoyed driving, was very relaxed with it and enjoyed fast driving. I expressed my surprise at his last comment to which he responded, “Well let’s put it this way, how many cars have overtaken you?”

Woops!

Porthcawl Foodbank

Judith Shawe

Many thanks for your generosity to Foodbank. We are fast approaching the season of excess and Foodbank needs all the help it can get.

I would like to ask that you consider gifts of money rather than food - the mince pie mountain was truly epic last year, not to mention the selection box selection!

It's good to consider the needs of others at this time - treats are, of course, welcome but please don't forget the basics. You can contact me on 01656 786446.

St Johns Church Summer Fayre

Jonathan Lewis



A cheque for £10,231.05 was presented to Fr Jonathan in respect of the money raised at this year's Summer Fayre. Jonathan Lewis, Chairman of the Summer Fayre Committee, thanked everyone for their tremendous support saying that it really is a community event with so many people supporting it whether by providing stalls, taking advertising space in the programme, working behind-the-scenes or enjoying the event itself. He said it was very rewarding to see the fantastic result.

Fr Jonathan explained that the money would be spent on the restoration of St John's church porch, which is badly in need of repair. The stone will be coming from Yorkshire!

Reminder: Competition from Porthcawl Rotary

Ages 7 - 17

**Closing date for entries is
1 December 2023**

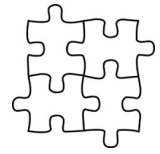
**Competition will take place in
All Saints Church on the evening of
6 December**



Details from Judith Shawe: 01656 786446 or judithshawe@hotmail.co.uk

Jigsaw Puzzles

Adrian Warner



Jigsaws were one of the winter pastimes when I was young, but in my second childhood are an all-year evening and bad-weather-days entertainment. A huge variety is now very readily available new, and used ones are so inexpensive in charity shops. The range has developed too, from thousands of pieces down to fifty and less for the very young, often with interesting shapes for both the overall jigsaw and the individual pieces. 3D ones exist, but I am not keen, having tried a couple. It is the pictures that evoke memories, and this is important; if the jigsaw is in a common room setting, discussing the picture and its connection to your past is richly rewarding.

There are different ways of starting: pouring the pieces onto the board where it is to be built is very unwise. It is better to put them onto a large tray where the ones showing their backs can be turned over, and perhaps some sorting started. The edge pieces tempt most solvers, but large areas of sky, trees, building, boats, sand and sea can be put into piles, heaps or plastic trays sold for this. I prefer to make cardboard trays to my own size. Sorting by colour may help, red is my favourite. Good lighting helps and an adjustable LED on a floor tripod is so useful as it provides variable illumination at the right height above the puzzle and saves having the whole room lit with expensive electricity. Second-hand ones have snags: there may be pieces missing and sometimes the cardboard de-laminates.

Nowadays it is possible to send off a photograph to be made into a puzzle of your own choice of size which is a far cry from what I did for my children: paste a picture onto a piece of hardboard or plywood and then cut it up using a jigsaw (or band saw). Hand held electric jigsaws are now available. Puzzles make excellent presents, though the picture needs choosing carefully. Large monochromatic areas are difficult and in the worst event lead to frustration and the puzzle consigned back to its box and the charity shop! However if you persist with a difficult one it is a good idea to prevent somebody else having the same problem by turning it over and applying paste to the back. It is easy to find an appropriate frame with glass into which to mount the puzzle and so make an interesting wall decoration.

Newton Nottage Mothers' Union

Judith Shawe

Many thanks to Graham Cross, our speaker last month for a talk on Edouard Degas, the French impressionist artist. Such lovely pictures of ordinary people and, of course, the ballet dancers. We are very cultured in Newton Nottage! November's meeting will host Ceri Joseph from Porthcawl Museum who will talk to us about the Suffragette movement. Everyone is most welcome on Tuesday 7 November at 2pm in All Saints' Hall. There will be chocolate biscuits !

The Croeso tea in October was enjoyed by all. Nancy Millman donated a signed copy of her book for raffling, which was won by Gloria Long. Many thanks for your generosity, Nancy, and well done, Gloria! The November Croeso Tea will be held at St Mary's Trecco on Saturday 4th November at 2pm. This will be something of an adventure for the Thursday Group - ever onwards !!

Maria and Kelly are decorating the MU tree for Rotary Christmas Tree Festival in December. The tree will be in the Lady Chapel. Thank you. On Saturday 9th December the Croeso Tea will be preceded by 'Come and Sing Christmas Carols' - a chance to choose and sing your favourite carols at 2pm, followed by Croeso Tea at 3pm. It'll be a great afternoon, come and enjoy yourselves surrounded by the Christmas trees in All Saints.

A summary of dates:-

Saturday, 4th November : Croeso Tea at Trecco at 2pm

Tuesday, 7th November : MU meeting at All Saints' Hall at 2pm
(Speaker : Ceri Joseph)

Tuesday, 5th December : MU meeting & carols, All Saints' Hall at 2pm
(Speaker : Fr Graham Holcombe)

Saturday 9th December : 'Come & Sing Christmas Carols' at 2pm, followed by Croeso Tea at 3pm

Please check the notice boards in church for information.

We mourn the loss of our dear friend, Marj Abraham, a much loved and treasured member of Mothers' Union here in Porthcawl. Always smiling, always so supportive, Marj will be much missed.

God bless you, Marj.

News from All Saints



Pam Rossini

The weather's so unpredictable, keeping us guessing. Should we bring out the mac, wellies and woolly hat or enjoy a relatively balmy day. Definitely forget the umbrella - Porthcawl is almost always windy.

It's a lot like life, we can be happily thinking life is good and then, without warning, disaster strikes and, like the weather, we have to make the best we can of it.

On a bright and warm 7th October, Mothers' Union gave us a delicious tea with lots of welcome and yummy cakes. It was a busy afternoon, meeting friends and making new ones – a good way to spend time.

Harvest Festival was celebrated with an excellent three-course lunch organised by Maggie, Jane and the busy bees. £390 was raised to go to Christian Aid and a further £155 to go towards refurbishment of the kitchen. Jane and Philip have enjoyed a happy holiday and we missed them. All those little jobs that no-one notices or takes for granted are often done by the J & P team. We appreciate the Mandy & Mum duo who are always ready to help out and serve when needed.

We've had two very sad occasions – saying goodbye to Dr David Parry and to Marj Abraham.

Dr David Parry was an exceptional man who cared for the community, had a remarkable life yet remained a very modest man. The church was packed with so many wanting to pay their respects and say goodbye to this very dear man.

The rain lashed down at Marj's funeral but it didn't stop her friends and neighbours from coming to the service. Marj was a delight, a dazzling smile, brilliant blue eyes with a way of holding on to you and listening that showed she really cared. Marj was the sweetest, kindest and most generous lady who would open her doors to anyone needing her help. Marj was a quilter and produced hundreds of quilts which were raffled and the proceeds donated to RNLI. Her husband John was the chairman of RNLI Porthcawl for many years and together they made a fine team. She had a wicked sense of humour and so, with a little glint of what she was, left us the poem on page 32.

A tribute to Dr David Parry MBE

Clive Edwards, Sub-Warden St David's

I am sure all of us across our 3 churches and beyond were saddened when informed of David's passing. Our thoughts and prayers remain as a focus for Pat, Hugh, Gareth and Rhydian together with their families plus family members residing in North Wales.

David was a dedicated, caring and gentle person who often went beyond his profession's remit when circumstances arose.

During his working life and retirement David found time to initiate and often lead groups of individual persons to help those in need within our locality - KRUF and Ty Ellis come to mind.

At a personal level, David had a passion for singing with numerous choirs, gardening, baking and perfecting his Welsh speaking whilst encouraging others to follow him.

In addition to the above, David was a committed communicant, a PCC member and rose to become a Warden - in office at the time of Fr. Philip's appointment as our Rector.

Stories about David were revealed quite eloquently at the funeral ceremony so, I will not attempt to repeat here.

St David's Church in particular will never forget David for his enthusiastic support at any event, no more so if a raffle was involved - the winner was often a certain Mrs Parry - his mum!

Thank you, David, for your contribution and your friendship with all who you met.

Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory





News from St David's

Catherine Powell

At the beginning of October St David's held their harvest supper, a fish and chip supper delivered straight from Rest Bay Fish Bar to the tables. The delivery man even helped pass out the boxes of delicious fish and chips.

Thank you to Marion and Jeff for the entertainment, not a double act but a poem and quiz respectively. Thanks to Carolyn for coordinating such an enjoyable evening and to all those who served the food and wine, made the coffees, sold the raffle tickets, washed the dishes and swept the floor.

St David's junior church continues with our 3 regulars and some occasional visitors. Jay is also the most regular member of Margam Calling Jnrs where he loves beating me at games!



Services & Events for Advent and Christmas 2023

The following are in addition to the usual weekday and Sunday services.

Saturday 25th November:

11am - 3pm: Christmas Fayre, PYLE CHURCH HALL

Sunday 26th November:

5:30pm: Margam Calling, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

Saturday 2nd December:

10am: Christmas Fayre, MARGAM ABBEY

3pm: Dynamic Harps, MARGAM ABBEY

Sunday 3rd December, Advent 1:

4pm: Christingle Service, ST JAMES PYLE

5pm: Christingle Service, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

6pm: Darkness to Light, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON

Tuesday 5th December:

Porthcawl Rotary Christmas Tree Festival, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL

Viewing daily from 11am - 5pm until Sunday 17th December

2pm: O Come Let Us Adore Him, PYLE CHURCH HALL

Friday 8th December:

9.30am: Mynydd Cynffig Primary School Christmas Concert,
ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL



Saturday 9th December:

2pm: Come & Sing Christmas Carols, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL

2pm: Christingle Workshop, MARGAM ABBEY

3pm: Christingle Service, MARGAM ABBEY

6pm: Bois Goetre-Hen Male Voice Choir & soloist Rhian Pritchard,
ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

Sunday 10th December, Advent 2:

4pm: Nine Lessons & Carols, ST JAMES, PYLE

4.30pm: Lights to Remember, MARGAM ABBEY

5pm: Nine Lessons & Carols, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

5:30pm: Christmas Margam Calling, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

Tuesday 12th December:

Carol Singing around Pyle and Kenfig

Wednesday 13th December:

7pm: Lifeboat Carol Service, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL

Friday 15th December:

10.30am: Coffee Morning & Raffle Draw, PYLE CHURCH HALL

Saturday 16th December:

4pm: Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight, MARGAM ABBEY
followed by mulled wine,

Sunday 17th December, Advent 3:

4.30pm: Experience Christmas, Benediction, MARGAM ABBEY

6pm: MA Service, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

6pm: Nine Lessons & Carols, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

Monday 18th December:

2pm: Mothers' Union Carol Service, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

Tuesday 19th December:

10am, Pyle School at ST JAMES, PYLE

1.30pm: Afon-y-Felin at ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

7pm: Cynffig Comprehensive School Christmas Carol Concert,
ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL



Sunday 24th December, Advent 4, Christmas Eve:

3pm: Crib Service with Living Nativity, MARGAM ABBEY

4pm: Family Crib Service, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

5pm: Crib service & Christmas Communion, ST JAMES, PYLE

6pm: Lessons & Carols, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON

6pm: Crib service & Christmas Communion,
ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM

9pm: First Mass of Christmas, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL

11pm: Midnight Mass, MARGAM ABBEY

11pm: Midnight Mass, with Blessing of

Continued on page 21

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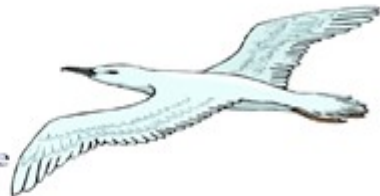
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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"

Services & Events for Advent and Christmas 2023

continued

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day:

- 8am: Mass for Christmas Day, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL
- 8.30am: Mass for Christmas Day, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON
- 9am: Holy Communion, ST MARY MAGDALENE, MAUDLAM
- 9.30am: Mass for Christmas Day, ST DAVID'S, NOTTAGE
- 10am: Mass for Christmas Day, ALL SAINTS, PORTHCAWL
- 10am: Contemplative Mass (Said), MARGAM ABBEY
- 10am: Christmas Day Eucharist, ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL
- 10.30am, Holy Communion, ST JAMES, PYLE
- 11am: Mass for Christmas Day, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON

Tuesday 26th December:

- 12noon: Said Eucharist for the Fest of St Stephen,
ST THEODORE'S, KENFIG HILL

Sunday 31st December:

- 10am, Said Mass, MARGAM ABBEY
- 11am: MA Mass, MARGAM ABBEY



Crib Festival

22nd - 29th November, 10am - 4pm

Llandaff Cathedral



Get in the mood for Christmas by visiting Llandaff Cathedral's Crib Festival where you can see on display a huge range of nativity scenes from countries around the world!

From matchbox size to life-size, simple to sophisticated, and made from every material you can imagine, the crib scenes will awaken your imagination about the Holy Family and the birth of Jesus.

News from St John's



Diane Jackson

Harvest has come and gone for another year. As always the church was beautifully decorated by our dedicated and talented ladies of the Flower Guild. Thank you Sandra and your team for your time and efforts. On Saturday 30 September, the church was open for visitors to see the Harvest Flowers and decorations. Tea and homemade cake was offered. Together with the proceeds from this, the sale of cards made by Jean Flower and donations, the day produced over £100. Thank you to all who gave their time to make this possible.

On 15th October we enjoyed a delicious Harvest Lunch prepared by Janice and her loyal band of workers. Speaking personally, it was lovely to sit down and be waited! It was well supported and we were entertained to a game of Bingo (a first for some of us!) The lunch resulted in donating £425 to Christian Aid and £150 to our Flower Guild. On behalf of the Guild, we are extremely grateful as we rarely receive much in the way of donations these days.

Our Christmas lunch will now be taking place on Sunday 10 December. Please note change of date. Booking are already being taken so to make sure of your place, book early! Iris Hickman is now taking names, and would be grateful if you pay at the time of booking (£15/person). To make it really festive, wear your favourite Christmas Jumper!!

Also looking ahead, another date for your diary, our Christmas Coffee Morning, with its special raffle, will be held on Friday 1st December at approximately 11am following the 10.30am service. Admission is £1 per person to include a drink and mince pie.

The cheque presentation for the proceeds of the Summer Fayre has now taken place and a magnificent sum of £10,231 was received for St John's Restoration Fund. Well done everyone who contributed.

It was very sad to hear that Dr David Parry had died. As well as being one of our local GPs, David was very active in the church, taking on many roles which benefited the whole parish He was also involved in many other organisations which served the community as a whole. A true Christian in every sense of the word, serving faithfully both his

church and the local community. Our deepest sympathy and condolences are sent to Pat and all his family.

Finally, we are very grateful to Nicola Willis for taking photos of the Harvest Flowers and Lunch and posting them online.



Harvest Lunch

Janice and Linda

Hello once again and a huge thank you to all who came to lunch in St John's schoolroom on Sunday 15th October to celebrate Harvest.

Unusually we must begin with an apology – so sorry the heating wouldn't work despite setting our two best men on the job to try to fix it! We understand a heating engineer is to be called in. We hope it didn't spoil your enjoyment too much.

A lively and happy atmosphere prevailed and our diners enjoyed roast chicken wrapped in bacon, roast root vegetables, new potatoes, peas and cabbage, followed by a superb apple and berry crumble and custard. Well done, Chris and the kitchen team. There were certainly some delighted faces when second portions of crumble were offered! Thank you to Canon Holcombe for saying grace, Fr Philip for drawing the raffle with help from Iwan, and to Adam for arranging and calling the two bingo games we had at the end of the meal – a £5 prize went to the two full house players.

As ever, well done to the team who served, cleared tables and kept things running smoothly.

As with the other churches, our proceeds will be divided - with £425 going to Christian Aid and the £150 raised from the raffle and bingo going to Newton Flower Guild. Thank you all for your ongoing generosity and support.

Ready for more? The Christmas Lunch in St John's schoolroom will be on Sunday 10th December, 12 for 12.30 as before to suit mass times. We have already taken names of those interested, so if you are, please confirm with Iris Hickman in Newton or ring Linda on 01656 772014. Cost £15 per person.

In the meantime....200 Club at St David's on Saturday 4th November at 12.30 for a Soup Lunch.

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 this year. Since then it has gone on from strength to strength.

Our original intention was to provide a free healthy breakfast for those in the community, who were struggling with the current cost of living crisis, especially families whose children could not avail themselves of the Welsh Government's free school breakfast over the weekend.

We provide sausage, bacon and egg baps, together with cereals, toast, yoghurt and fruit juice. At this time we also put out a table of homemade cakes on a bring and share basis, where people can take if they need and pay if they can. This proved popular and many people showed their support by just calling in for coffee and cake and leaving a donation.

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We then extended the scheme to include a community pantry. A chance meeting of one of our volunteers with Jane James of James Food Hall at Pyle Garden Centre led to her offering to provide us with any left over fruit and vegetables on a Friday evening. Approaches to Caboodle and Neighbourly charities put us in touch with local Co-operative and Aldi supermarkets who also donate left over produce on Fridays. The benefits of this are two-fold. People can take what they need without the necessity of providing vouchers and a great deal of food is used instead of ending up in landfill. We are always grateful to those who leave a donation but are happy for everyone to take what they need without payment. No-one judges and all are welcome. So far, donations received easily cover the cost of breakfast provision and so the scheme is self-supporting and its future secure.

This summer, a grant from a charitable organisation has enabled us to offer a free, healthy sandwich lunch, with yogurts, cereal bars and fruit, across the school holidays. This has proved extremely popular and a further promised grant will enable us to continue this provision, with the addition of soup, through the school holidays until after Easter 2024.

There is a lovely, welcoming atmosphere on Saturday mornings with children playing in the toy corner, families coming together for a shared meal and others making new friends. We are delighted that local councillors, the PCSOs and clergy make themselves available to offer help and support where needed. We are also grateful to all the volunteers from across churches in the Ministry Area, who pick up on Fridays and work on Saturdays. Not everyone who comes to Family Breakfast will come to church, although all are very welcome.

The Family Breakfast initiative is part of the Ministry Area Mission Group's aim to support the community through showing support, care and involvement.

The Family Breakfast Team



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News from St Theodore's

Margaret Griffiths

As I write this article, I am looking forward to Sunday 29 October, because it will be the first birthday of Margam Calling and we will be welcoming Bishop Mary to St Theodore's to help us celebrate. Why not join us? You may think it's not your kind of thing, but you won't know until you try it! Come along at 5.30pm for free coffee and doughnuts with the service following at 6.00pm.

I always feel that as we enter November, the countdown to Christmas seems to accelerate but the usual activities continue throughout November. On 8th November we will be holding the monthly Goldies sing-a-long session. If you feel you need to get out of the house and meet people why not join us at 11.00am. Singing is good for you and I can guarantee you'll feel better at the end of the hour.

On Friday 10th November, St Theodore's Mothers' Union are organising a Bring and Buy, plus tea/coffee and cakes with a talk by yours truly on "The establishment and early history of St Theodore's Church". Anyone who is interested is welcome, you don't have to be a MU member, join us at 2.00pm.

It is always a joy to welcome children to church and on Friday 8th December, St Theodore's will be hosting Mynydd Cynffig Primary School Christmas Concert at 9.30am. The following day we have a festive concert with Bois Goetre-Hen Male Voice Choir and soloist Rhian Pritchard at 6.00pm. I anticipate lots of chair moving!!

The December meeting of Goldies will take place on the 13th at 11am - I promise there will be mince pies to accompany the tea/coffee.

Sunday 17th December will see St Theodore's own Nine Lessons and Carols. On 19th December, Cynffig Comprehensive School will be coming to St Theodore's for their Christmas Carol Concert at 7.00pm.

Any additions or updates for the Christmas period I will include in my December article. The Mission group of the Ministry Area is working on a surprise - all will be revealed in December.



News from Margam Abbey

Bev Gulley

October as ever, was a busy month: with tours; the visit of Year 3 Mynydd Cynffig School; a talk on Theodore Mansel Talbot, (in situ) by Gareth Scourfield to our Mother's Union; the Halloween themed quiz (winning team Phoenix Nights); attendance by the Abbey at a Wedding Fayre at the Orangery; a Harvest Festival, following which 130.2 kg (287 lb) of donations were delivered to Port Talbot Foodbank (with thanks to everyone who contributed and decorated the Abbey); the month concluding with the visit of Wenvoe MA, who joined us for Eucharist, followed by an Abbey tour. Congratulations to Ellie, Evie, and Samuel baptised, and to Bev on the 60th anniversary of her baptism in the historic Margam Abbey font. Many congratulations to our Treasurer Mari and Cellan, now Mr and Mrs Jones. Every blessing for your married life together .

November:

Thursday 9th November 7pm - **DIY Literary Festival** - anyone can read favourite poetry or prose (5 minutes), giving a brief explanation of why it is important to them. Contact Gareth on 07594 269248, if you would like to read. Please come along anyway, to support this new and exciting event.

Friday 10th November 7pm – **Glamorgan RWAS Concert**. Following the success of the concert at this year's Royal Welsh Show, it is being restaged, featuring The Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, Penclawdd Brass Band and several soloists. Parking is in Margam Park. Tickets are £15. Please contact 07742 306159.

Thursday 23rd November 7pm – **Festival Evensong and Benediction** (culmination of the 875 Anniversary year). Preacher – The Very Revd Richard Peers.

Thursday 30th November 7pm (Church Hall) - **Quiz**. Free entry. All welcome. Bring your own nibbles.

Our MU meets on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Church Hall at 2pm and extends a warm welcome to new and prospective members. November's speaker is Faith O'Sullivan and her guide dog Buddy.

December:

Happy Birthday to Averil Williams who is 80 years young, on 1st of December.



We will be holding a service for the Glamorgan Branch of Magistrates, and Cwm Brombil Ladies WI will have a tour and talk on our historic vestments with Pam Scourfield.

Our Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 2nd December at 10am with many stalls and in the afternoon the accompaniment of Dynamic Harps (up to 20 harps) who return again following the wonderful concert last year. Free entry and parking. Refreshments available.

Christingle - Saturday 9th December. 2pm Church Hall (make Christingles) followed by a service. All children and well-behaved grown-ups welcome (plus of course our canine friends)!

Lights to Remember/Bereavement Service Saturday 16th December: 3pm. **Carols by Candlelight** (time tbc).

Carol Service - Saturday 23rd December at 2pm.

Saturday 24th December - **Crib Service 3pm : Midnight Mass 11pm.**

All of our Christmas events are free. Do follow us 'Margam Abbey Church' on Facebook.

Our Gift Shop opens every weekend (with refreshments available), and is fully stocked with lovely Christmas Gifts. A reminder that dogs are welcome at all times in the Abbey.



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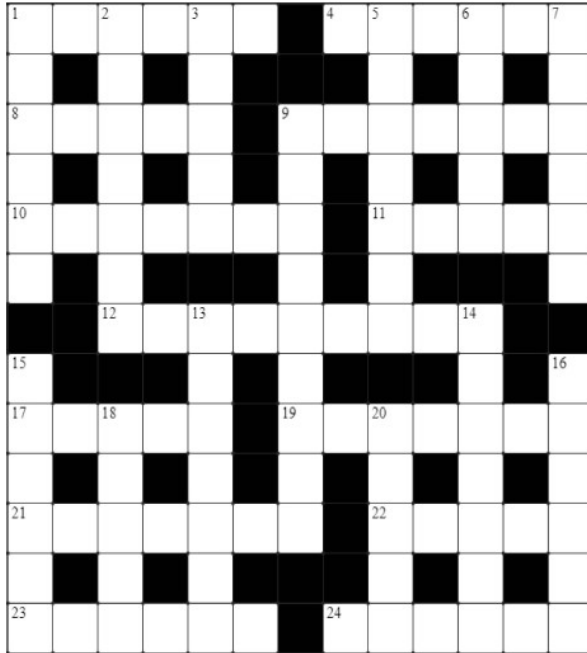
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Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Be adamant (6)
- 4 Rove (6)
- 8 Male duck (5)
- 9 Breed of cat (7)
- 10 Swiss cheese with small holes (7)
- 11 Awry (5)
- 12 Genuine (9)
- 17 Belly button (5)
- 19 Fiasco (7)
- 21 Relieved, assuaged (7)
- 22 First sign of the zodiac (5)
- 23 Fire-breathing monster (6)
- 24 Cosily (6)

Down

- 1 Violet blue dye (6)
- 2 Broad-bladed kitchen implement (7)
- 3 Root vegetable (5)
- 5 Side by side (7)
- 6 Beverage (5)
- 7 Fame (6)
- 9 Feigned (9)
- 13 Fox-hunting cry (5-2)
- 14 Riding a bike (7)
- 15 Away from the coast (6)
- 16 Liverpool's river (6)
- 18 Pancho __, Mexican revolutionary leader (5)
- 20 Muscular strength (5)

Pause for Thought

The Quilter's Prayer

Dear Lord,
I'm going to need some notice
Before my days are done,
You see, I'm a quilt-aholic,
A fact not known by some.

My workroom is bulging
All corners, drawers and nooks,
There's loads of boxes under beds
Hope no-one ever looks!

I tell myself when shopping
No more quarters (fat) today
But the quilt shops are like magnets
Drawing me their way.

I buy all those lovely fabrics,
Just NEED a few of each,
Then I hurry home to hide them
Before the family starts to preach.

So Lord, I need a little time,
To dispose of all this stuff
And Lord, can we keep all this
Between the two of us.

Marj Abraham

In memory of Marj and her fundraising achievements

Quick Crossword Answer (page29)

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The Rev'd Dr Duncan Walker 01656 740500 revduncan.walker@hotmail.co.uk
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Treasurer:

Dr Paul Smart 01656 788086 pmsmart@aol.com

Safeguarding Officer:

Mr Dave Xerri 07850 129079 dave@xerri.wales

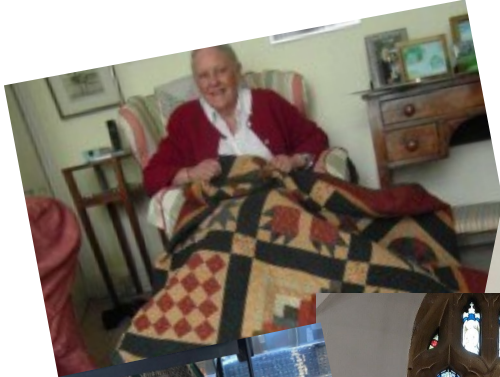
Church subwardens:

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	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
Saint James, Pyle	Mrs Eileen Edwards	07530 989433

Saint Theodore, Kenfig Hill	Mrs Margaret Phillips	07748 678827
	Mrs Margaret Griffiths	07477 648871
Margam Abbey	Mr Colin Gulley	07576 921005
	Mrs Bev Gulley	07530 421220

Hall Bookings

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



DAVID PARRY
 BORN 10th FEBRUARY 1939
 M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.G.E.D.P.H.

**IN GOOD FRIDAY
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attended a serious incident at Coney Beach, Pleasure Park, Porthcawl. An accident on a water chute had occurred at 12 noon, minutes before he arrived, when hurricane-force winds blew down a steel lighting gantry, which fell on a nine-year-old boy who was on the roof of the building below. To gain access to the track of the wind and then subsequently to reach him, when assisted with attempts at resuscitation, he died of multiple injuries. The other injured and dis-





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