



Margam

Ministry Area Magazine



October 2025



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Happy Harvest!



Autumn is in the air although it's lovely to see all this sunshine, alongside the rain! Whatever the weather, there's a plentiful harvest of content in this issue with goodies from across the Ministry Area.

Alongside our regular updates, there's an abundance of news, views and goings-on to keep us entertained. The fond farewell to Fr Jon and David is well covered, a testament to the love and respect for them both – they will indeed be sadly missed. Music and harvest are two recurring themes, and I hope you find the article on liturgical colours as interesting as I did. (Next month, I'm planning to include a piece on church vestments!)

Thank you to everyone who has contributed, it is much appreciated, and I look forward to your continued support.

Enjoy this month's articles – and remember November and December are always popular, so if you have announcements, news alerts or topical stories, please make sure you get them to me in plenty of time. For November by 22 October and for December, by 19 November. I'd love to have more photos too.

Happy reading!

Helen Murdoch



Please send magazine contributions to me at: helen@helenmurdochmarketing.com or call me on 07721 864493 or by post to 7 Birch Walk, Porthcawl CF36 5AN

COVER IMAGE: Fr Jonathan's farewell in St Theodore's

Keep up with Ministry Area news and updates:

On the website: www.margam.org.uk and on our Facebook pages too:

- Churches of Newton, Nottage & Porthcawl in the Margam Ministry Area
- Churches of Pyle & Kenfig
- St Theodore's—St Colman in the Margam Ministry Area

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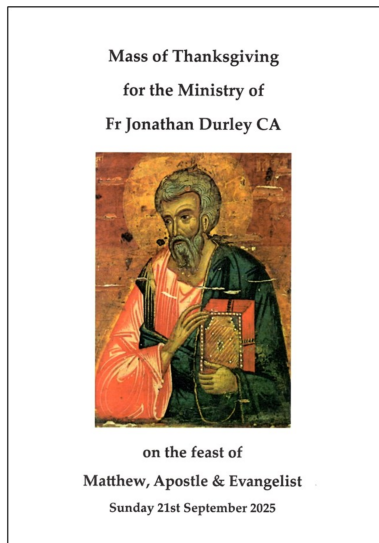
Thank you, Fr Jonathan

The Ministry Area service in St Theodore's was a wonderful opportunity to say thank you to Fr Jon and David for all they have given to St Theodore's Church over the past 15 years, and to the Margam Ministry Area during the last three and a half years.

We wish them both every blessing as they continue their journey in the service of God and His Church in the Ministry Area of Afon Nedd.

The service was very well attended — a joyful celebration of what coming together as a Ministry Area is all about: friendship, love, mutual support, and shared faith.

Thank you, Fr Jon, for your faithfulness, kindness, and service. You will be greatly missed, and the love and care you've shown will remain with us all in St Theodore's, the Margam Ministry Area and across the whole community.



*Thank you for
your love and support*





Dear Friends,

Rev Dr Duncan Walker

As the season turns and the fields yield their fruit, we gather in gratitude to celebrate the harvest, not merely the bounty of the earth, but the deeper gifts of God that sustain our lives and nourish our souls. In barns and baskets, in bread and wine, in fellowship and worship, we behold the generosity of the Lord who “is bringing you into a good land” (Deuteronomy 8:7). The harvest is not only a time of reaping but of remembering: of the soil from which we came, the grace that has carried us, and the promise that lies ahead.

Deuteronomy 8 speaks with pastoral tenderness and prophetic urgency. It reminds us that the abundance we enjoy is not of our own making. The land flowing with brooks and wheat, vines and fig trees, oil and honey, is a gift, a covenantal inheritance, not a personal achievement. “When you have eaten and are satisfied,” Moses warns, “do not forget the Lord your God” (Deut. 8:10–11). In the rhythm of sowing and reaping, there is a spiritual danger: that comfort might breed forgetfulness, and prosperity might eclipse praise.

Yet the harvest, rightly received, is a call to humility and joy. It is the season when the earth sings of God’s provision, and the church joins in the chorus. We decorate our sanctuaries with sheaves and fruit, not as quaint tradition, but as theological witness: that creation is good, that God is faithful, and that every loaf of bread is a sacrament of divine care. In the rustling of wheat and the scent of apples, we hear echoes of Eden and glimpses of the New Jerusalem.

Jesus, in Matthew 13, offers a parable that deepens our understanding of the harvest. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like a farmer who sows good seed in his field. But while everyone is sleeping, an enemy sows weeds among the wheat. The servants, eager to purify the field, ask to uproot the weeds. The master replies, “Let both grow together until the harvest” (Matt. 13:30). This is not agricultural advice, it is divine patience. The harvest will come, and the wheat will be gathered, but until then, the field is mixed, messy, and mysterious.

This parable reminds us that the gifts of God are not always obvious. The harvest is not only about abundance but discernment. In our lives, in our churches, in our communities, wheat and weeds grow side by

side. We are tempted to judge, to sort, to purify. But the Lord of the harvest sees more clearly than we do. He knows what is fruitful and what is false. And he calls us to trust his timing, to work in love, and to wait with hope.

In this light, the harvest becomes a symbol of eschatological promise. It points beyond the present moment to the day when God will gather his people, when justice and mercy will meet, and when every tear will be wiped away. The sheaves we carry now are signs of that future joy. The bread we break is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. The thanksgiving we offer is a rehearsal for eternal praise.

But the harvest is also a call to action. Deuteronomy warns against pride and forgetfulness, but it also urges generosity. “Remember the Lord your God,” it says, “for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth” (Deut. 8:18). The gifts we receive are meant to be shared. The abundance of the land is not for hoarding but for hospitality. In the spirit of jubilee, we are called to open our tables, to feed the hungry, to clothe the poor, and to welcome the stranger.

In our church, the harvest is a time of gathering, of food, yes, but also of stories, prayers, and people. We bring our offerings, not only of produce but of praise. We sing hymns that echo with gratitude and preach sermons that stir remembrance. We decorate our altar with fruit and flowers, not to impress, but to express: that God is good, that creation is generous, and that we are stewards of grace.

So let us rejoice in the harvest, not only for what we have received, but for what it reveals. Let us remember the Lord our God, who led us through wilderness and into abundance. Let us trust the Lord of the field, who knows the wheat from the weeds. And let us live as people of the harvest: humble in blessing, patient in waiting, and generous in love.

*With Christian Greetings,
Duncan.*



Liturgical Colours

Adapted from Church Mouse

Liturgical colours are specific colours used in Christian worship that symbolise different seasons, occasions and themes within the liturgical calendar.

It is only since the 12th century that colours (except for white being linked to purity) have had any significance. Today's colour scheme was developed from schemes drawn up by Popes (for example, Innocent III, 1198-1216) but it was not until 1750 that a formal scheme was defined by Pius V. This is the basis for modern Roman Catholic and Anglican practice.

Up until the 19th century most Anglican clergy preferred the surplice, scarf and academic hood. However, the Oxford Movement in the 19th century established liturgical colours as a distinctive aspect of Anglican usage. Modern practice, except for Evangelical Anglicans, follows the simplified scheme proposed in the Roman Catholic *Ordo Missae*, although there continue to be some local variations. Although firmly woven into *Common Worship* (CW) it must be emphasised that the use of liturgical colours is not mandatory.

The colours, and when they are used, are shown opposite. It is formally only the colour of the priest's stole which matters, but can be applied to the chasuble, maniple, the altar frontal and pulpit fall.

The meaning linked to each colour is:

White: symbolises joy, purity, innocence and holiness.

Gold: symbolises sovereignty, love, wisdom and the glory of God.

Red: signifies blood (of martyrs) and fire (of the Holy Spirit).

Purple (or violet): is linked to penance, humility and mourning.

Blue: can be used instead of purple; signifies penance, faith, eternity and the heavens; is traditionally the colour of the Virgin Mary's robes.

Green: represents growth, hope, regeneration and perseverance.

Black: represents mourning.

Ref: Common Worship: Rules for Regulating Authorized Forms of Service (p.532)
Companion to Common Worship vol I: The Calendar, section C (p. 45)

Colour	Used on
White	<p>Christmas Day to the Presentation in the Temple</p> <p>Easter Day to the Eve of Pentecost</p> <p>Trinity Sunday</p> <p>Festivals of Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>All Saints Day and Festivals of those not venerated as martyrs</p> <p>Dedication Festival</p> <p>Maundy Thursday. Thanksgiving for Holy Communion and Holy Baptism</p> <p>Marriage, and suitable for Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination</p> <p>May be used for Funerals and should be used for the Funeral of a child</p>
White/Gold	May replace White for any of the great Festivals
Red	<p>Holy Week (except Maundy Thursday; no colour for Good Friday and Easter Eve but red for liturgy on Good Friday)</p> <p>Pentecost</p> <p>Between All Saints Day and the First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Feasts of those saints venerated as martyrs</p> <p>Suitable for Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination</p>
Purple (Blue as an alternative)	<p>Advent</p> <p>Ash Wednesday to the day before Palm Sunday</p> <p>Recommended for Commemoration of Faithful Departed and Funerals</p> <p>Rose-colour may be used on Advent 3 and Lent 4</p>
Green	<p>After the Presentation in the Temple until Shrove Tuesday</p> <p>The day after Pentecost until the even of All Saints Day</p> <p>May be used instead of red between All Saints Day and Advent 1</p>
Black	May be used as an alternative for Funerals

News from All Saints

Pam Rossini



A fond farewell to Fr Jonathan.

It was a sad but glorious Sunday when friends and parishioners came together at St Theodore's Church to say Goodbye to our well loved and respected priest, Fr Jonathan. The church was crowded with well wishers wanting to be part of this moving service, the love for him was palpable and he will be sorely missed.

All seemed to flourish under his supervision. He and his band of volunteers brought new life into St Theodore's with their regular lunches, keep fit classes and interesting talks. There was something for all ages. The clothes shop grew and grew and is a real boon for Kenfig

Mid Glamorgan Savoyards

Dominique Spearey

Treading the boards once more with their production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe", the doughty singers, actors and musicians, are set to delight audiences with this satire of a male dominated civilisation disrupted by women.

After the successes of the concert production of Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man" and last year's "Music from the Theatre", the Savoyards, accompanied by The Savoyards Opera Orchestra, are returning to their normal genre of staged performances, once again in All Saints Church, Porthcawl.

This year it's a matinee, **Saturday 18th October** at an earlier time of **2.30pm**.

Profits are going to **Y Bont** in Bridgend, a Registered Charity opened in 1997, a specialist, unique child and family centre offering help, advice and respite to children with a variety of disabilities and complex medical needs, and their families/carers.

This event will be the Savoyards' 32nd charity event under the baton of Roger Hudd MBE. Please come to support, and enjoy an afternoon in the beautiful setting of All Saints Church.

Tickets are £15/£5 for children; on the door or from cast members.

News from All Saints continued



Hill where you can buy anything from a beautiful wedding outfit to school clothes for the children.

Fr Jonathan has been a huge asset to the community.

We wish him well in his next venture and, with his special kind of magic, will surely be successful.

Moving away from this, a very interesting talk was given for Mothers' Union by Lydia Harris. The title of this talk was "Flourish" and she certainly opened our eyes to an excellent programme being taken at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. It is to help build confidence and support young students who are struggling with the problems of day-to-day living. The programme has been well received and is expected to be extended. Best wishes to you, Lydia, for doing a difficult but much-needed job.

The Croeso tea was held in All Saints church on what must have been one of the worst Saturdays of the year, with wind and rain lashing down. However, a good few resilient ladies and some children braved the weather and were well rewarded with delicious homemade cakes. Judith and her gang of talented volunteers had worked hard at spoiling us – a big thank you to you all.

Another thank you must go to the retired priests that are serving us since Fr Wayne left. We are very fortunate that these retired priests are filling in the very large gaps, but with so many duties to perform it is becoming a difficult situation which can only be relieved by having our own appointed priest.

On Sunday 5th October we celebrate Harvest Festival. The church will be decorated in the autumn hues and, where possible, the abundance of our allotments and gardens can be used to help feed those in need. Jane, Maggie and their team of volunteers will be cooking a three-course lunch – and all for £10.00, a bargain! So don't delay and get your name down for a very jolly afternoon.

Let us remember to thank the Lord for all the good things He has given us – a home, a family, enough food for our health, and the strength and courage to overcome any hardships and difficulties, as well as the love of our fellow human beings. We thank you.

Newton Nottage Mothers' Union

Judith Shawe



Back to normal this month with our September meeting.

We welcomed Lydia Harris as our Speaker. Lydia spoke about her work with the Flourish initiative which helps children in a school setting. It's always good to know what the church is doing in the community - thank you Lydia.

Some of us have found it difficult to get back into the swing after a month off. Please support the monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. Visitors are very welcome, and especially to our next meeting on Tuesday, 7th October at 2pm at All Saints' Hall. Ceri Joseph will speak about Porthcawl on its 200th Anniversary. This should be of interest to us all, and I hope it will be well supported.

CROESO Tea was a delight last week with lots of new faces along with our old friends. The tea is for EVERYONE and ANYONE, not just Mothers' Union members!! The cake is homemade and the tea is hot! We ask for donations only. Proceeds go to local charities as well as MU charities. I look forward to seeing you on Saturday October 11th at 2pm in All Saints - come and enjoy a chat with friends and soon-to-be-friends!

Prayer Group is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Lady Chapel. It's good to spend time together in prayer, reminding us of what matters. Everyone is welcome.

If you are able to come to church on the last Wednesday of the month, there is Corporate Communion at 11am in All Saints, followed by coffee, a bric-a-brac stall and a raffle! A great opportunity to worship together and to enjoy some fellowship.

It's been nearly 3 years since the Newton Nottage branch was in danger of closing. If it's to survive another few years, it needs your support, it needs attendance at meetings - please give this a thought.



News from St David's

Pat Parry

St Theodore's was full last Sunday for Fr Jonathan's last service in the Margam Ministry Area. Many of us went from St David's to wish him and David well as they move on to the Neath Ministry Area.

He was thanked for his 15 years of ministry in St Theodore's and his kindness and care for everyone. Following the service there was a chance to chat to everyone and share memories. Thank you to those that provided the refreshments. I hope new priests will be appointed soon.



Thank
you

Congratulations

In June at a meeting of Porthcawl Rotary, the chain of office of President was passed from Jeff Perren OBE to

Dr Alison Thomas who will lead the club for the year 2025-2026. They are both members of St David's Church. We congratulate Alison and wish her well in her new role.

"Be Still" - Contemplative Prayer

Valerie Fyans

Be Still is a scriptural-led quiet time with God. I host it on Zoom on the third Tuesday every month at 8pm for about 40 minutes.



We use a verse from the Bible which is introduced, then followed by silence so that we can put the verse in our heads. There are then another few words about the verse, followed by another silence to move the verse to our hearts, and finally to allow God to speak the words of our verse through us to those for whom we wish to pray.

If you are interested and would like to know more, give me a call on 07881 818760. We'd love you to join us.

Well done, Angharad!

Edwina (Ted) White MBE

I do like the September cover photo of the intrepid and fearless Wing Walker. Well done Angharad raising funds for Our Buoy Hugo's Fund!

Early this year following a fall, for three long months I was in hospital and rehab at Royal Llantrisant, POW and Brynnycae. What a treat it was several times to see the same smile pop up over the end of my bed when Angharad somehow found time to visit me.

In those endless weeks away from home, constant visits from my wonderful family and friends kept up my spirits and gave me the strength to tackle all those exercises that eventually got me back home. Family came from across England and Wales and with them so many local friends that quickly, to the amusement of hospital staff, 'Ted's Visitor WhatsApp' was set up with a spreadsheet to book visits!

I am so grateful for my visitors, and for all your prayers.
Thank you everyone.

God Bless,
Ted

Thank you

Would you like to join the fun?

Helen Murdoch



Exciting news! Girlguiding is thriving in Newton, Nottage, Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers across the area. We're all about friendship, fun and trying new things. From crafts and games to outdoor adventures and earning badges, there's always something exciting going on!

And right now we have spaces across all ages - from 4 to 18 year olds - and there's no limit on age for adult volunteers, just a need to be young in mind! Want to find out more? Visit www.girlguiding.org.uk or contact me at divcom.sker@gmail.com.



News from St John's

Diane Jackson

Autumn has come in with a vengeance! After such a good summer, we are probably feeling the difference more.

The usual services have taken place whilst we await a new vicar. The adverts for the post are soon to go out and we pray that someone wants to come to Porthcawl to be our shepherd and that it happens sooner rather than later. Our thanks to Rev Duncan, Fr Graham and Fr Amos for caring for us during this period.

You may be aware that our churches in the ministry area are facing a black hole. We have therefore been asked to make cut backs, no matter how small. We have therefore dispensed with the services of a cleaner. This means it is up to us, as a church, to keep it clean and tidy. Denver and Margaret have for some time been doing their best, in addition to the cleaner. Recently a small team did a grand job but this needs to be done on a regular basis. Therefore if you are willing and able to help out once a month or whenever you are free, please contact Gareth Lewis (sub-warden) or add your name to the notice in the porch. All you need to bring along, as well as yourself, is dusters!



Some of you may have noticed our Altar rail has been in need of attention. Elaine Lloyd has arranged for a carpenter to repair it which needed a specially made piece. As it was for the church, he has given his time and expertise free of charge. Our sincere thanks to him, it is much appreciated and thanks to Elaine for organizing it.

Ann Burtonwood recently celebrated a significant birthday. Belated congratulations to her. As part of her celebrations, we enjoyed cake and sherry at our Friday Coffee Morning.

HAPPY
Birthday

Harvest will very soon be here. Janice and her team will again be putting on a Lunch on Sunday 12th October following the 11.15am service. If you have not put your name down and wish to join us, contact Iris Hickman.

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A Note on Music

Adrian Warner

During the allegretto 'Melodies for You' recital (17th Sept 2025, Penarth Methodist Church; Janet Pedwell playing the piano and Rebecca Warner playing the cello) it occurred to me that a few words on my music would be fun to write and possibly amusing to read.

When I was very minor my family laughed at my attempts to sing, and pronounced me tone deaf. I could not stave off this rebuff and it penetrated my psyche even though I tried to bar the thought and got very crotchety with stress and fretted about it, but not highly strung.

Further staccato rejection ensued when trying to join the choir in secondary school. Leave music alone was frequently said fortissimo to me, which made me quaver at the knees and feel double dotted.

Well, seventy years later, chance had me buy a note detector and after more years of trying in the bathroom a scale could be managed with a quavering voice, as I would not let the matter rest. It seems I was only a repeat, my dad had similar mocking as a boy: this should not be allowed since training can be successful: mimickers should be made to soft pedal and change their tune, take their comments bach and not be so meddlesome.

Among the phrases he used can be listed 'Methodism was born in Song'. Charles Wesley is one of my many heroes, partly because he composed thousands of hymns. For a special occasion I wrote one. It took a year to perfect even though it only involved using the tune 'Finlandia' (E flat major), with new lyrics, but it has been performed in two churches and didn't fall flat.

I despair of ever understanding the difference between A flat and G sharp. As the tempo of my vivacious life becomes diminuendo, it strikes a chord that perhaps I *am* naturally tone deaf and should not try to perform a solo swan song.



200 years of the modern railway

200 years ago on the 27th September 1825, the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in North East England.

Inspired and supported by a prominent Quaker, Edward Pease, and backed financially by many Quakers nationally, it has been described as "the greatest theatre of railway operations", sparking the explosion of railways across the world and boosting the industrial revolution.

About 20 miles of the original 25-mile stretch still exist, as part of the Northern Rail Line.

Locomotion No 1 - The technical expertise behind it came from George Stephenson, an extraordinary self-taught engineer whose expertise, which originated in the mines, stretched beyond railways.

His Locomotion No 1, built for the Stockton and Darlington Line, was the first steam locomotive to carry passengers on a public rail line.

He worked with his 18-year-old son Robert, who is known for creating the more famous Rocket four years later.

The first Stockton and Darlington train - which ran from Old Etherley Colliery, some distance north of Darlington - was led by a man on horseback with a flag. The motto of the organising committee was "at private risk for public service".

With brakemen stationed between the waggons, the train reached 12-15mph and was greeted by an estimated 10,000 people at the Darlington junction where some passengers left and more boarded.

The average speed was calculated at about 8mph. Six waggons of coal were given to the poor by way of celebration.

A nine-month festival in County Durham and the Tees Valley - with artwork, spectacles and community events - is marking the bicentenary of the opening of the railway.

As a tribute to his life and achievements, a bronze statue of George Stephenson was unveiled at Chesterfield in 2005. an earlier statue stands in Neville Street, Newcastle.

More info: <https://railway200.co.uk> and www.railwaymuseum.org.uk

Did you know?

4 Oct 1911 - Britain's first escalator opens at London's Earls Court.

7 Oct 1920 - Women become eligible for admission as full members of Oxford University and are given the right to take degrees.

9 Oct 1967 - Transport Minister, Barbara Castle, introduces the breathalyser.

15 Oct 1666 - Samuel Pepys records the wearing of the first waistcoat by Charles II.

17 Oct 1860 - The first professional golf tournament is played at Prestwick, Scotland.

22 Oct 1957 - Captain Pugwash makes his television debut.

30 Oct 1925 - the first television transmission of a moving image is made by Scottish inventor John Logie Baird.

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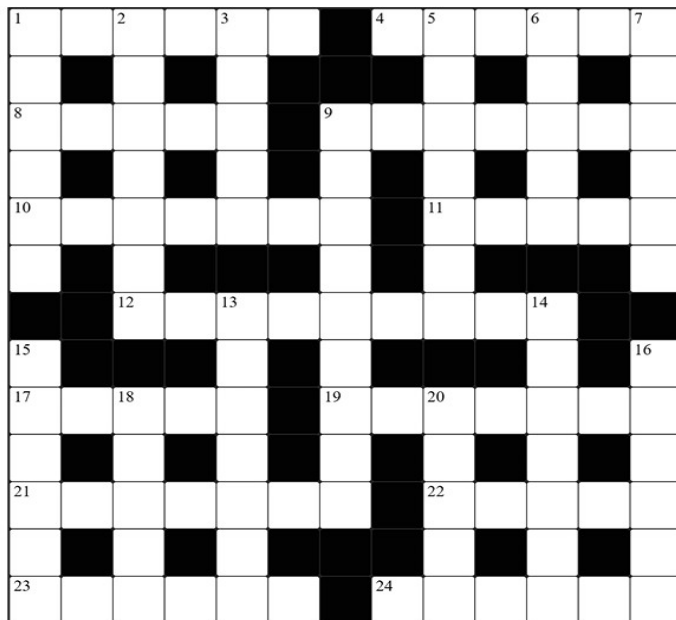
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Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Aviator (6)
- 4 Sumptuous meals (6)
- 8 Carved brooch (5)
- 9 Day of rest and worship (7)
- 10 Stream (7)
- 11 Asparagus shoot (5)
- 12 Small fast warship (9)
- 17 Wrath (5)
- 19 Piffle (7)
- 21 Mocked (7)
- 22 Structure supporting power cables (5)
- 23 Profoundly (6)
- 24 Maiden in distress? (6)

Down

- 1 Pact (6)
- 2 Taken away (7)
- 3 Ring-shaped coral reef (5)
- 5 Official residence of ambassador (7)
- 6 Digging tool (5)
- 7 Vast desert of North Africa (6)
- 9 Soaked (9)
- 13 Fruit-filled Austrian pastry (7)
- 14 Puzzling questions (7)
- 15 Extolled (6)
- 16 Dog house (6)
- 18 Ravine (5)
- 20 First Greek letter (5)

Quick Crossword Answer (page21)

1	A	I	R	M	A	N			4	F	E	A	S	T	7	S
	C		E		T						M		P			A
8	C	A	M	E	O			9	S	A	B	B	A	T	H	
	O		O		L				A		A		D			A
10	R	I	V	U	L	E	T			11	S	P	E	A	R	
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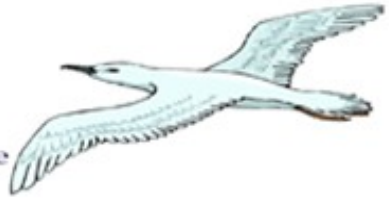
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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 .

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ST JAMES, Pyle

Sunday: Mass at 11.15
Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Newton

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

ST MARY MAGDALENE, Maudlam

Sunday: Mass at 09.30
Wednesday: Mass at 11.00

ST THEODORE'S, Kenfig Hill

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

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

Pause for Thought

I like hugs

It's wondrous what a hug can do,
A hug can cheer you when you're blue
A hug can say, "I love you so:"
Or, "I hate to see you go."
A hug is, 'Welcome back again!'
And, 'Great to see you!' or 'Where've you been?'
A hug can soothe a small child's pain
And bring a rainbow after rain.
The hug!
There's just no doubt about it,
We scarcely can survive without it.
A hug delights and warms and charms,
It must be why God gave us arms.
Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,
Sweet for sisters, even for brothers,
And chances are some favourite aunts
Love them more than potted plants.
Kittens crave them.
Puppies love them.
Heads of state are not above them.
A hug can break the language barrier,
And make the dullest day seem merrier.
No need to fret about the store of 'em
The more you give, The more there are of 'em.
So stretch those arms without delay
And give someone a hug today.

'Love one another: As I have loved you...' John 14:34

From Mini Cards, a division of Kingsway Communications Ltd

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