

# June 2022



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](http://www.margam.org.uk)*



## A Right Royal Read!

As we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, this issue of the magazine has a distinctly royal flavour. Alongside the usual news, views and contributions from across the Ministry Area, we recognise the remarkable legacy of the longest-reigning British monarch and longest-serving female head of state in history, Queen Elizabeth II.

Thank you to all those who have contributed – we have an eclectic mix of articles to entertain you, inform you and keep you on your toes! Our travels take us through Bruges, and around Margam Abbey and Cefn Cribwr; there are memories of a well-loved chorister and a tragic local accident; we look at the origins of some familiar sayings and ponder the wonder of water; and enjoy some chuckles with John's light-hearted anecdotes.

How lovely it is to be getting together again, to hear about recent events and to have a calendar of gatherings to come – pop the dates in your diaries! I've also given you some 'extra' puzzles, all with a royal flavour!

Enjoy reading – and keep the articles coming. Deadline for the July-August issue is 20<sup>th</sup> June. Thanks.

Happy Jubilee,

*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](http://www.margam.org.uk)

And remember the Facebook pages too:

[www.facebook.com/PorthcawlParish](https://www.facebook.com/PorthcawlParish)

[www.facebook.com/TheParishOfKenfigHill](https://www.facebook.com/TheParishOfKenfigHill)

[www.facebook.com/MargamAbbey/](https://www.facebook.com/MargamAbbey/)

[www.facebook.com/pyleandkenfigchurches](https://www.facebook.com/pyleandkenfigchurches)



**The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service**  
A service  
marking the 70th anniversary  
of the reign of  
**Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be marked, celebrated and long commemorated around the world. Regardless of faith or nationality there can be few people not to recognise the dedication and personal commitment made by this one woman to her country and her role.

As part of Porthcawl's celebration, **Churches Together in Porthcawl** are arranging a service of celebration and thanksgiving when the town can come together in one major act of worship. All churches and all ages will be involved in the one presentation.

The combined churches service will be held on  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm**  
**in Trinity Church, Porthcawl**

Refreshments courtesy of Porthcawl Town Council

Seven children are being invited to write about Her Majesty, read their items at the service and light a candle, photographs will be screened, candles will be lit and prayers will be said.

The service will be zoomed for those unable to be personally present; the link will be published in the Gazette.

Let us show our gratitude for the leadership, example and dedication of this remarkable lady.

In 2008, Her Majesty, the Queen said: 'I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life ... He makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served.'

As we approach the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, we need to remember such a celebration has Biblical foundations, where debt is cancelled, with a period of rest and fasting granted. Her Majesty, I am sure would wish this to be the experience of all her people, given the pressures of modern life and all other living costs which are going to impact on everyone.

The concept of Jubilee was God's answer to long-term poverty. People become poor for all kinds of reasons; they struggle to improve their situation. However, the Jubilee allowed for a new beginning in every generation. For people caught in the poverty trap, it gave hope and new opportunities as land was restored to its original owners, debts were cancelled, and slaves set free. Land, slaves and loans were all to be valued - based on their nearness to the Jubilee year. This must be our prayer for all struggling during this time of increased austerity.

I am writing this on the eve of Rogationtide when we pray to God for his Blessing on our all our crops and those who will bring to harvest in the Autumn. Our dependence on God is as much a reality for us, as it was for the Queen, during her 70-year reign.

But let us follow her example in adopting the role as a servant of Jesus Christ, who she has served during her long reign as our much-loved Monarch.

Throughout her long life, Christ's example and teaching have been seen acted out in the dutiful and faithful life of our servant-hearted Queen. It seems that her prayer from the start of her reign has been answered.

However, you may celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, may you make a difference in the lives of other people, so that all can celebrate this great occasion with dignity and worth.

*With love and prayerful best wishes, Fr. Jon*

## **Mission, Outreach, Children and Young People Group**

*James Thomas*

Our latest meeting was on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May with lots of engaging discussion to move forward with a plan for the coming year.

The first parts of our mission journey are below. Please help and support if you can.

### **HELP WANTED! – Family Breakfast**

We are starting a Family Breakfast Club in Pyle Church Hall, every Saturday starting in July. This is aimed at families whose children receive free school meals, but is open to anyone who would like help.

The ladies from the Pyle & Kenfig churches are running the Breakfast and would like members of the other churches to help if you can!

### **FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

A friendship group will be on Wednesday's from 2pm to 4pm starting in June in Pyle Church hall. The group will meet weekly and is aimed at anyone who would like to get out of the house and just relax in company with a coffee and a chat. Everyone from all the Ministry Area churches is invited - and that invitation extends to non-church people too. This is a group for the community - all are welcome.

If you are able to help or have a questions about the work of the Mission Group please contact us at [mmamissiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:mmamissiongroup@gmail.com) or on 07432 483527 (James).

Watch this space for future projects - coming soon!

Next meeting is on 7<sup>th</sup> June at 6:30pm in the Abbot's Kitchen, Margam Abbey. Everyone who is interested and wishes to help is welcome.

### **Events across the Ministry Area**

For details of events across the Ministry Area, visit

[www.margam.org.uk](http://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](http://www.margam.org.uk) Booking contacts are also on the back page of this magazine.

## ***To build a people of power***

On the face of it, the Church is not about power but the absence of it. We have faith in a Jesus who resisted all attempts to make him what the earth would see as a king, one who came not to be served but to serve, one who washed the feet of his closest followers. So complaints about the Church not having the influence it once had, or even about the Church and Christianity being mocked and belittled, marginalised and opposed are perhaps looking to a state where we do not need to be and should not want to be.

If we look again at Jesus' words to Pilate 'My kingdom is not of this world' (John 18.36), we understand that we do not look to anything the world can offer. We, his present-day disciples, are citizens of 'no abiding city' (Hebrews 13.14); our true home is not here in this world but finds its completion in the fullness of God's presence. It is there we are aimed, there we find the kingdom, there we find our power and confidence, with a world-view which goes beyond anything this earth and its powers can offer.

This is what the earliest Christians were given at Pentecost: they became a people empowered by an understanding of life no longer limited by death. Jesus brings a kingdom founded here on this earth, rooted here on earth, to be worked out here on earth but not completed here — 'your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' Our power, like theirs, is in this vision of God's presence working its purpose out; our purpose, like theirs, is to live the Good News, to bring others to share it and understand it.

Do not worry about what others say; do not fret about the mockery and belittling—the Church has, after all, done much to deserve it. Think instead of the kingdom of God, a kingdom not of this world: live and speak for Him here but remember our power comes from elsewhere. And nothing this world can do will overcome it.

*Father Philip*

## Meaning and Happiness

Fr Mark

I have found myself sat in my car on several long journeys over the past couple of months. I like to listen to something whilst I drive, and so, I'll put on an Amazon Music playlist before I set off.

One of the songs on repeat during at least one of these trips has been *The 1975's 2016 hit The Sound*. The song concerns a troubled romantic relationship which, despite its sexual power, is built on deception. The Sound in question is that of the lover's heartbeat.

The lyrics are at times explicit, but they are also quite clever. One needs a passing acquaintance with Greek Philosophy in order to follow some of the lines:

*It's not about reciprocation it's just all about me  
A sycophantic, prophetic, Socratic junkie wannabe  
And there's so much skin to see  
A simple Epicurean Philosophy*

Epicurean Philosophy argues that the purpose of existence is to lead a happy life through the pursuit of pleasure. I would suggest that this ancient worldview shares a great deal with the prevailing zeitgeist.

Christianity denies that "a happy life" is the greatest objective, and even more profoundly, the teachings of Jesus and his church say that to seek happiness in pleasure is invariably to miss it.

Jesus teaches his people not to worry about material things, saying "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." - Matthew 6:33

To be a follower of Jesus is to trust in his providential care; and to find in our relationship with him a sense of meaning that not only transcends the Epicurean goal of a happy life, but also brings it in greater richness than we could imagine.

I'm sat writing these words in the waiting room of a care home. I have just laid my hands on, and prayed for, a dying woman. This is not Epicurean pleasure, but it is obedience to the call of Jesus that gives me immeasurable meaning in my life - meaning that I and her family were able to share together through our mutual faith.

It seems that to aim simply at the happiest life by seeking out the most pleasure is to miss the mark. For me, the life which has found most meaning in relationship to God also proves to be the happiest.

What does it mean to find meaning in relationship to God?

Jesus gives some clues. He tells us the greatest two commandments: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Matthew 27:37-39

To love our neighbour is not to pursue pleasure or happiness; but it will surely bring both. Certainly it will bring hardships, and pain, and sometimes suffering too - but through it we will create meaning for ourselves, meaning that aligns our being with the eternal loving purposes of God, as we live in obedience to Jesus's commands.

There are various paths to follow through this life of meaning-making obedience. To a certain extent, it matters less what you do, but how you do it, and who you do it for. For me, to love my neighbour has been to hear the call to various forms of ministry and service.

There are an infinite number of ways to love your neighbour, all that matters is that you do; and that you do so as an outpouring of the love that God has poured on you. As you love your neighbour, in obedience to Jesus, you will find meaning in the alignment of your life and the eternal purposes of God.

### **Bridgend Foodbank needs.....**

...your old mobile phone please. Nothing too old and preferably a smart phone. Clients can be given a SIM card to use the internet - so much info is available if it can be accessed.

Please leave phones at the back of any of the Porthcawl churches and I'll pick them up or ring me on 01656 786446 (Judith Shawe) for me to collect. Thanks.

Did you know you can Gift Aid your donation to Foodbank? I have forms if you wish to take advantage of this. Foodbank is able to apply for Gift Aid on cash donations of £30 or less, itself. (The same system applies to street collections where donations are all in cash).

*Every little helps .... Judith Shawe*

Dear Friends,

Light is important in the Bible. Moses, a prince of Egypt, was reduced to looking after sheep in Sinai until the burning bush changed his life. This means a great deal to us all. It is easy to stumble along in the shadows. In Isaiah 9 verse 2 the great prophet tells us that in Jesus those who walk in darkness have seen a great light. A fundamental warning that it is easy to walk in twilight and to become confused and lost. Here is such an important dilemma that even Satan is termed the light bringer, or Lucifer. In the sense that he reveals the motivations of humanity.

June for the Church is a month when we are encouraged to value the light of God in His Son Jesus Christ. Pentecost is celebrated on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. It has always been cherished as an explosive, light filled revelation of the will of Christ. After the trauma of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection the early Christian community were afraid and confused. Jesus left them on Ascension Day understandably causing a crisis of confidence.

Morale must have been low at the prospect of leading the Church. We can see this problem of assurance then and now. Life has always been complicated, and it is easy for us all to lose our way because of this. Churches worry about how to introduce everyone to Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world. It is so easy to get bogged down with negative conclusions of not being able to do this and that; most of all to feel we are failing in our mission. In this sense devout Christians can feel they are stumbling along in darkness.

This is why the energy of Pentecost is central to everything we can hope or do. There is here such divine energy, purpose and hope that it gives us all blessed assurance. In the Orthodox Church they have light services at this time, where flames miraculously break forth as on the great day of Pentecost. Although not as dramatic, in the western catholic tradition we deck the frontals with vibrant red colours which speak something of this great evangelical event.

It is inevitable that as we remember we look back, but it is far more important that we look forward. The Apostles were tasked with the great burden of living the faith and introducing others to the love of

Christ. This was enormously difficult and dangerous, and we often forget how much courage fills the pages of the New Testament. Just as Pentecost empowered them to do this we need the same today.

Sharing our faith with family, friends and our communities is as great a challenge to us today as anything in the history of our faith. Great spiritual deserts are all around, and it is a real challenge crossing these to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. We need all that the Holy Spirit brings us to face the challenges of our day. These are great and small, but it is always important to remember that they are all part of building the Kingdom.

We pray to be filled with the love and purpose of God.

May the Holy Spirit bring us energy, purpose and confidence to tread the challenging pathways which take us all home to the Lord.

*With Christian Greetings,  
The Rev'd Dr Duncan Walker*

## 5 facts about the Queen

1. As Queen, she has been served by 14 UK Prime Ministers  
...including Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher and Boris Johnson.
2. She's the only person in the UK allowed to drive without a licence  
...and she doesn't have a passport either!
3. The Queen first sent an email in 1976  
... and published her first Instagram post in 2019!
4. Queen Elizabeth became a homeowner at just six years old  
...when the people of Wales gifted her a house in the grounds of Windsor's Royal Lodge - named Y Bwthyn Bach (little cottage).
5. As Princess Elizabeth, she made her first radio broadcast in October 1940, during the Second World War  
...and has made a Christmas broadcast every year of her reign, except in 1969 when she issued a written message instead. (This was because a special documentary film, 'Royal Family' had been made during the summer in connection with the Investiture of The Prince of Wales.)

Source: [www.royal.uk](http://www.royal.uk) and [www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/monarchy/facts-about-the-queen-elizabeth-ii/](http://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/monarchy/facts-about-the-queen-elizabeth-ii/)

## **St John's Summer Fayre**

**Saturday 9th July on Newton Green**



We're delighted to be returning this year and welcoming everyone to the Summer Fayre on Newton Green with a fantastic afternoon lined up.

The Fayre starts with the wonderful sound of the church bell ringers and opens at 12 noon. The Rock Choir kick off the entertainment - they're truly amazing and not to be missed. The Elindia Belly Dancers shake up proceedings at 1pm, followed by Punch & Judy and a Magic show to keep us all amused. We welcome back the gentlemen of the Porthcawl Male Voice and at 2.45pm, Undercurrent, one of Porthcawl's most highly regarded duos, take a bow. The amazing talent of The Performance House showcase songs from shows and at 4pm we draw the raffle. The day finishes with the legendary Tug of War between The Ancient Briton and The Jolly Sailor. All this plus our usual amazing stalls including games, plants, jewellery, books, cakes, tombola, bric-a-brac and a bouncy castle! And there's refreshments in the schoolroom and our Pimms tent outside.

Put the date in your diary - we look forward to seeing you there!

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## **“Better Is Peace Thank Always War” Singing for Ukraine**



*Dominique Spearey*

On Sunday 8th May, in All Saints, The Mid Glamorgan Savoyards came together, not for their usual Gilbert & Sullivan Opera, but for a magnificent, heartfelt performance of Karl Jenkins’ “The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace”. This work, commissioned by The Royal Armouries Museum, was composed to commemorate The Millennium and to reflect the ravages of war and welcome in a new century of peace.

With just 7 weeks to put together the concert, the Musical Director and organiser, Roger Hudd BEM, achieved the near impossible.

The company of singers - nearly 60 strong - was particularly well accompanied by a remarkably good locally recruited orchestra, especially the percussion and trumpet sections. The huge selection of drums was borrowed from Bridgend College. We thank Canon Philip Masson for the use of the Church for most of the rehearsals and the performance, and also to Gilgal Church, The Hi-Tide & Harris Printers, who produced flyers and programmes, for their generosity. Thanks to Lowri Phillips, the accompanist at rehearsals. Many other helpers gave their time and energy, creating a strong sense of community opening their hearts to give help to those affected by the war in Ukraine.

The Church was full and the emotions of the audience were clearly felt when The Last Post sounded, followed by Canon Masson ringing the church bells.

The choir had learnt the Ukrainian National Anthem and accompanied by the orchestra, sang this as a fitting finale to an amazing evening.

Well over £3,000 has been raised, which is going to a local charity group with Ukrainian family connections; Wales Aid for Ukraine. They have already undertaken 2 humanitarian trips to Ukraine and this donation, for a third trip, will be used to purchase power generators, medicines, medical equipment, food and baby formula to be delivered to the people and villages most affected by the war - those who have lost everything.

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e-mail: [bellevuemason@live.co.uk](mailto:bellevuemason@live.co.uk)

## **Speak when you are spoken to!**

*John Berry BEM*

At the time of the Queen's Silver Jubilee I was helping to reorganise a YMCA that had been in difficulty so it was basically closed other than the hostel, which was full.

I was approached by the local Council of Voluntary Organisations asking would we like a stall in a display of voluntary organisations in the town for the visit of Her Majesty and Prince Philip. I said yes, then asked for help from the Board of Management! On the day, everything was set up in a series of linked marquees set as a horseshoe so the royal couple would enter and exit from the same place. We were second in our marquee, the YWCA was first and we were told the Queen would not stay long at the YWCA, otherwise she would leave Prince Philip standing in a corridor! Our display was mostly leaflets, photos and posters of events undertaken by the YMCA with a photo of the then Princess Royal in the centre. We were given the usual instructions, 'speak only if spoken to' and how to address them.

Her Majesty came into the marquee, looked briefly at the YWCA and came to us. She seemed to be studying the information, and then took a step towards me.

"Why is my aunt's photograph in your display?" I was actually slightly embarrassed with this but replied,

"Well, your Majesty, The Princess Royal came after a big refurbishment programme and received purses representing the amount the donor had made to the project."

Another step towards me:

"How much was a purse?"

"I believe it was one thousand pounds, m'am." (We were told to pronounce it as in jam!). Another step towards me – I was now looking down to her!

"Expensive handshake wasn't it?" and she walked away!

The reason I was embarrassed with the question was because I was aware that when she became Queen she abolished the practice saying, "No one is paying to shake my hand!"

That was my first encounter with Her Majesty and I didn't pay to shake hands with her!

## **Greetings from 200 Club**

*Linda Fletcher*

The time has passed quickly and it's now time to begin our meetings. As usual the first event of our year is Afternoon Scones at All Saints on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm. Tickets £2.50 (or at the door).

Thank you to those who have paid for the draws for 2022-2023. If you haven't, please feel free to come along and pay your 'subs' on the day (still at £10) or just come along and enjoy the time together.

We currently have just over 130 members, so we have room for more! For further details please ring me (Linda Fletcher) on 01656 772014.

### **Mothers' Union**

Many thanks to Doreen, Gloria and others for making the MU Deanery Festival a great success. It was a long day but it went off so well. Around 62 MU members from branches in the Deanery attended. It was a lovely service followed by tea and chat in the hall. Also very many thanks to Fr Geoff for his help in organising the event.

### **Remembering Ieuan Walters**

Born in Skewen, educated in Swansea, he joined Barclays Bank as a 16-year old and spent his career in branches across South Wales - except for a 2-year period of national service in the RAF, which had a lasting impression on him. He retired as manager of the Porthcawl branch after 40 years' service. A family man, Ieuan and Margaret celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. They both enjoyed visiting their son, Mike, in Baden-Baden, as well as their daughter Helen and her family in Abergavenny. He was an extremely proud grandfather to Katie and Lisa.

A community-oriented man and active member of many local clubs and societies, Ieuan also had a great voice. He was a member of several choirs including People & Piano, Probus Club, Mid Glamorgan Savoyards, and, of course, All Saints Choir.

Once an exceptional tennis player, he was a great sports fan with a fondness for rugby and golf, particularly the 19<sup>th</sup> hole!

A real gentleman, Ieuan truly enjoyed life to the full and will be sadly missed.



## News from All Saints

*Pam Rossini*



May – a month of changes.

The weather, as with many other things, has been very changeable. One morning you may need your coat, scarf, and woolly hat, by the afternoon you can discard all that for a hoody and trousers, then comes evening – the wind has given up, the sun is out, and you can enjoy a pleasant hour in the setting sun. It certainly reminds us of that old adage “never cast a clout ‘til May is out.”

The Margam Ministry is another change for the clergy and is, no doubt, quite challenging, but the Church has always been ready for a challenge and this should prove fruitful.

All Saints hosted a superb concert of musicians and choristers brought together by Roger Hudd, the accomplished conductor. The programme was A Mass for Peace called The Armed Man written by Sir Karl Jenkins during the Kosovo war. This dramatic and emotional piece left many in the audience visibly upset, particularly with the Ukraine crisis and all the horrors of that war in our minds. An amount of over £2000 was raised to help the brave people of Ukraine. We went home thankful for our homes and loved ones.

Coffee after the Wednesday service has restarted. Fr Mark felt the time was right and it has been enthusiastically taken up and we now see Margaret, Ieuan Walters’ wife, and his daughter, Helen, coming all the way from Abergavenny to join us at the service and later helping with the cleaning up in the kitchen. What a devoted daughter Helen is.

We have said a sad farewell to another of our much-loved choristers, Janet Anderson. Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet’s family.

We recently had a christening, a happy event. Gareth Baker, his wife Alisha, older son George and their darling baby boy, William Edward John, together with the whole christening party filled the church. Fr Philip poured several scoops of water onto his little head but not a whimper from him, the congregation wished him well and a new member of the Church was welcomed. It was such a lovely memorable day.

Last Wednesday Fr Geoff announced that he has passed his curateship. He was delighted and so were we. Another milestone achieved!

## A Constant Reminder

*David Parry*

On Good Friday 1994 I was on duty, taking the place of a colleague who was ill. As I was leaving a house call in Wellfield Avenue, opposite the fairground, I had a message to go to the fairground immediately - I was first on the scene at a tragic accident on the water chute.

There was a severe gale blowing and it had knocked off a lighting hoop on the ride. That had not been noticed. On the first ride of the season, the passengers going down the water chute collided with the displaced hoop. The passengers in the front received horrific facial injuries. A nine year old boy, Timothy Morgan, had been thrown out of the carriage. I was asked to see him first. I had to climb up the water chute in the gale with my medical bag to attend to him. It was too late. He was already dead.

After a while paramedics arrived. They had an easy approach up a ladder. I had to persuade them that there was no point in trying to resuscitate him because he had been dead for some time. I climbed back down the water chute to find the boy's father lying at the bottom of the chute with life-threatening injuries. He had been told that I had seen Tim. He asked me how he was. I could not lie. I had the unenviable task of telling him that Tim was dead. He said that he had come from Cardiff to give Tim a treat. I cannot remember how I found the family's address but I was able to pass it on to the police so they could inform Tim's mother about what had happened.

The Sunday School in St David's Church had been preparing an Easter poster. The late Anne Murphy saw the poster. She thought it was so good that she turned it into a banner. The Sunday School scholars had learned of the accident and asked for the banner to be dedicated to Tim, and also to Rhys Masson, the infant son of the Rector & Maggie.

A date was set for the dedication. I learned that Tim's family are Mormons. By the strangest coincident I met their Bishop in London and he arranged for his deputy to be at the dedication service. The family were too upset to attend.

One of the choirs I belong to, the Broadway Singers, practises in the



## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Man!**

*John Berry BEM*

As I approach my 86<sup>th</sup> birthday I am ever more thankful for the NHS. My appendix was removed when I was twelve – I timed it for the start of the National Health Service! Since then I have received superb treatment at various times, rather more in recent years! I've had two cataracts removed also a number of inadequately maintained teeth. In return I have two plates with replacement teeth, two pairs of glasses, two hearing aids, five stents and a pace maker.

I now awake in a morning, wind myself up and get on with the day!

## **The Lost Officiant**

*John Berry BEM*

As a teenage organ student I was sat with the organist for a wedding at my church. We were in an interregnum and a retired priest was taking most of the services. About ten minutes before the wedding was to commence a churchwarden appeared to tell us the priest had not arrived and was not answering his telephone; a car had been despatched to his home and the bridal car was being diverted! It emerged the priest had fallen asleep – the wedding commenced after twenty minutes - everybody blamed the bride for being late!

## *A Constant Reminder continued*

Hi-Tide. One wall of the meeting room is covered by a picture of Coney Beach showing the water chute. I am reminded of the incident week by week.

I was able to meet Tim's father some years after and explain to him how sorry I was to have to break the news of Tim's death to him. The occasion was the BMA presenting to the museum in John Street a record of the incident. My name had been enrolled in the BMA's Role of Valour. I am only one of two Welshmen ever to have that honour. I was reminded that I had put my own life at risk to attend to Tim.



## News from the Tower

We are all looking forward to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations this month. The tower bells at St John's will ring out on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to mark the occasion – we'll be ringing 'up' a little after 11:20am with a view to beginning promptly at 11:30am. If you're able to come along and listen, please do and keep an ear out for the range of methods or pathways we'll be using! You might be able to recognise a move from ringing in rounds, at the start, into a variety of other patterns as we progress!

During the Easter holidays, I was lucky enough to hear the magnificent chimes of a carillon in Bruges (my first encounter with such a wonderful instrument) and I was enthralled! Housed in the Belfry of the Bruges Belfort (an 83m high tower) the carillon contains 47 bells, most of which are original casts that have been lovingly repaired and restored over the centuries. To play it, the carillonneur strikes the keys (or batons) and inside the carillon, a series of levers and wires connect to clappers that strike the bells in harmonic order. The carillon is widely reported to have originated as a musical instrument in its own right during the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is therefore not necessarily related to a particular church or chapel. In 2014, UNESCO recognised the Belgian carillon culture as 'intangible cultural heritage' and we timed our visit to catch a performance! We were treated to a wide range of melodies, including keyboard music by Baroque composers and hits by the Beatles – a wonderful experience!

Wishing you all a peaceful month,

*The Bell ringers*

### Royal Anagrams

*Answers on Page 33*

Name the Royal event by rearranging the letters provided.

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. DRAPERY GNAT (6,5)          | 4. ONION ACTOR (10)        |
| 2. CLOTHING POOR ROUTE (8,3,6) | 5. COOL ASTRAY (5,5)       |
| 3. UNCHARGED HINT GAG (8,3,5)  | 6. NEARBY CREAM MED (11,3) |

*From The Ultimate Royal Family Activity Collection*

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# News from St John's

Diane Jackson



First of all I would like to thank Helen for all her hard work she has taken on in producing an enlarged magazine. The last two editions have been so interesting, hearing about the other churches now part of our Ministry Area as well as all the other varied contributions.

In the last month, we are delighted that we can take our communion at the altar instead of the pew. Still only the host but hopefully very soon, as things become more relaxed, we will be offered the chalice.

It was very sad to hear that Janet Skiffins had passed away after a very long illness. Janet was very fortunate to spend her last years in the comfort and familiarity of her own home. She will be remembered as a kind, gentle and very caring person who saw no bad in anyone. Our sincere sympathy goes to her family and her friends who have supported through the last few years.

Preparations are underway for the Summer Fayre which will be here before we know it. Also work has started on the kitchen or at least the ceiling has been done! Everything these days seem to be taking so long, not to mention getting more expensive. Some people are now really struggling.

The situation in Ukraine remains distressing. However It is so heartening to see the generosity of so many as well as the strength and courage of the Ukrainian people. Hopefully, in the not too distant future we see good triumph over evil.

## Royal Dingbats

Answers on Page 33

G  
E  
R  
G  
E

mrs.

ttttttt ears  
throne

QUEEN  
QUEEN  
QUEEN  
QUEEN & FINLAND

RAIN  
RAIN  
US

ness  
Royal

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## Margam Abbey Historical Facts

The Pump House at Margam Park has been restored to working order after 50 years.

First producing electricity (for 400 lamps) in 1891, powered by a nearby stream, the Abbey church immediately benefited; a local newspaper stating ‘

*Margam Church was lit up by electric light on Sunday evening, the effect was very fine.... the nave and choir have been fitted up. Miss Talbot kindly gives the installation, and presents the church with elaborate electric fittings.’*

When lights were needed on at the church, a call was made by telephone, as the Abbey was connected to the castle; for someone on the staff to hurtle down to the Pump House to ‘switch it on’. At that point, the Abbey was basically a private church for the mighty Margam Estate, the Talbots inducting their own priests until 1918.

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## News from Margam Abbey

Bev Gulley

May has been a busy and enjoyable month, with the Bank Holiday bringing many visitors to the church - group visits included: British Archaeological Association, Glyncorrwg WI and Baglan Church Men's Group. Katya and James's wedding blessing was a lovely occasion, the church brimming with beautiful floral arrangements.

We were delighted, that Margam Abbey hosted the Diocesan Ministry Fair, with sunshine, ordered and delivered! The day was a great success. Thank you to all of our volunteers, who assisted with setting up, marshalling, refreshments, calligraphy, information and in the shop, where more than the odd jar of jam was sold! The afternoon rounded off with the renewal of the partnership agreement between Llandaff Diocese and the Diocese of Uppsala in Sweden. Many of us also met Mark Greenaway-Robbins, our incumbent-designate (whose licensing takes place at 7pm, Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> July) and his wife Ruth, to whom we send every good wish, as she is to be ordained a Deacon on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.

We also bid a fond farewell to Fr Steve Jenkyns, who celebrated his last Sunday mass at Margam Abbey, with Wardens Bev Gulley and Robert Cross making a presentation. We will all miss him & in typical style, his last act was to bless two visitors' dogs! We wish Fr Steve and his wife Canon Elaine, every success for their future ministry in Cardiff.

Mother's Union: The talk on '*Bargain Hunt to Flog it – Our Auction Fix*' was demonstrated with local and historical artefacts, including a jug, purchased at the 1941 sale of the Margam Estate. The June speaker will be Gareth Scourfield talking on Short Stories.

In June:

We welcome The Swansea Valley Historical Society, and The Friends of Margam Park hold their Jubilee Cream Tea in the Church Hall.

We wish Emma and Richard every good wish for their marriage.

## Water

*Adrian Warner*

This month you might think about water, and, if you have access to the internet, spend some time reading about it. What a precious essential element, and in many situations a matter of life or death - in deserts, on the International Space Station, when besieged by war, and, ironically, when at sea. We cool our cars and perspire. It finds 'its own level' and gives us the spirit level. It is heavy to transport, but will flow with the minimum of gradient; the Romans built many aqueducts to bring it to urban areas. How would domestic life, cooking, cleaning, manufacturing, building and agriculture be possible without water? How would the human body function?

A remarkable property is that it contracts as it cools until it reaches 4° above zero, then it expands again: so ice floats. Thin ice is dangerous and icebergs can sink unsinkable ships. The sun and moon pull it into tides, when in line at New Moon into 'Spring' Tides, when at right angles into lower range 'Neap' tides.

When clean it is so useful, when dirty less so, when salty it covers 70% of the surface of our planet and we (over-) harvest much food from it, but dangers lurk such as crocodiles, sharks, jellyfish, electric eels and sting rays. We waste it and pollute it, though it is naturally cleansed in the 'water cycle' of evaporation and precipitation. Man exploits it for HEP, to raise ships in locks, to raise steam, and uses it for dozens of sports. We explore under the surface and try to stay submerged, we even locate weapons in submarines using it as cover for warfare. It is the universal dustbin, though we are increasingly aware of what we are doing.

I am awed by this wonder of creation, that has rain, hail, snow, glaciers, rivers, waterfalls, lakes, and oceans, is scenic and full of creation. Water is so useful that it is not surprisingly regarded as holy (and sometimes miraculous) and used in baptism and ceremonies. It is the main constituent of beverages; wine, tea, coffee, beer etc. Try looking up 'well dressing' and funeral rites using rivers and the sea. Apart from its role in forming sedimentary rocks including coal, another marvel is how rain absorbs carbon dioxide and then dissolves rock to form caverns with stalactites and stalagmites.

## **News from St James & St Mary Magdalene**

*Jeanette Keane*

As I write this the war in the Ukraine is ongoing. It is so distressing seeing the destruction & devastation that is taking place there. Many of us feel helpless not knowing what to do to make a difference.

The concert held at the Parish Church Hall on April 25th was our way of trying to help the Ukrainian people in their time of need. We hoped to raise £1000 but to our amazement the total raised was £1655! The evening was an outstanding success enjoyed by all who attended. The choir sang their hearts out and their voices were superb - many of us in tears at some of the songs. The choir praised the buffet and asked if they could come again.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity...

Rev Dr Duncan Walker for allowing the use of the Parish hall.

Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir who gave their services free.

To all who contributed to and purchased raffle tickets.

To the members of the congregations and organisers who baked and donated such a variety of delicious dishes catering for 120 people.

To Martyn Jones and Wendy Xerri for opening and closing the evening and for their meaningful prayers for the Ukraine.

It was so good to all be together enjoying ourselves whilst raising funds for a worthy cause. We can achieve so much working together in God's name. This was the first event of its kind held in the Hall since Covid . Let's hope its the first of many.

Our next event is to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. We have an afternoon tea in the Parish Hall on Friday 10th June at 3pm. Tickets are £5 and there'll also be a 'Right Royal Raffle'. Tiaras and crowns are optional but we'd love to see yours if you have one. All proceeds from this event will be for church funds.

In the pipeline is a friendship group which will be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays 2 to 4pm. We hope to begin in the middle of June (date to be confirmed). Why not come and join us, make new friends or bring an old one! A warm welcome awaits.

God bless you one and all and may you walk each step of your life with our Lord Jesus by your side.

## **News from St Theodore's**

*Margaret Griffiths*

Summer's coming and hopefully some good weather so that we can get out and enjoy some of the beautiful parts of our Ministry Area. Somewhere you may not have thought of visiting, but which is steeped in history and has some lovely walks is Cefn Cribwr.

Did you know that nestled in the valley to the north of the present-day village is one of the best preserved 18th century ironworks in the UK? The ironmaster, John Bedford, established the ironworks in Cefn Cribwr from 1773. Ultimately however, they were not successful and Bedford left the area. Today, coming up the hill from Kenfig Hill, you turn off the B4281 opposite the Three Horseshoes Community pub into Bedford Road. Carry on down the hill, passing on your way the house John Bedford built for himself. There is a small car park at the bottom of the hill, where the cycle route crosses the road. The route of the cycle path follows the line of a railway which began life as the Dyffryn Llynfi horse-drawn tramway, which hauled coal and iron from the mines and works of the Llynfi valley to the docks in Porthcawl.

Take a walk westward on the cycle path to view the ruins of Bedford's ironworks. Or go eastward on the cycle path until you come to the memorial to those who perished in the Parc Slip mining disaster.

Parc Slip colliery had been started around 1864 and by August 1892 was owned by North's Navigation. On 26<sup>th</sup> August many people in the area were anticipating a day out at St Mary Hill fair, with some of the colliers having changed shifts in order to go to the fair. Disaster struck at 8.30 am with a huge explosion - 112 men lost their lives.

Y Cefn Gwyrdd is a local society which has been responsible for restoring and maintaining the Cefn Junction railway signal box, which you can walk to by a path adjacent to the crossing cottage at the bottom of Bedford Road. The society is also responsible for the green plaques seen on buildings throughout the village of Cefn Cribwr. There is one on the garden wall of Bedford House and on a building at the bottom of Bedford Road which was the White Lion pub.

For more information on the industrial history of Cefn Cribwr take a look at the information board in the small car park at the junction of

Bedford Road and the B4281, opposite the Three Horseshoes pub. Another information board can be found on Mynydd Bach common where the village war memorial is situated. The board has information on all those commemorated on the memorial.

For more on the history of Cefn Cribwr and the Parc Slip disaster track down these books by Neville Granville:

Cefn Cribwr: Chronicle of a village  
The Park Slip Explosion

You may find them in your local library!

Thanks to all who attended our “Lasagne, lyrics and laughter” evening in St Theodore’s. It was a very enjoyable evening.

A very early date for your diaries – October 7<sup>th</sup> 2022, a concert with Maesteg based mixed choir “Noteworthy”, led by Musical Director Ryan Wood, who is also MD of Bridgend Male Voice Choir.

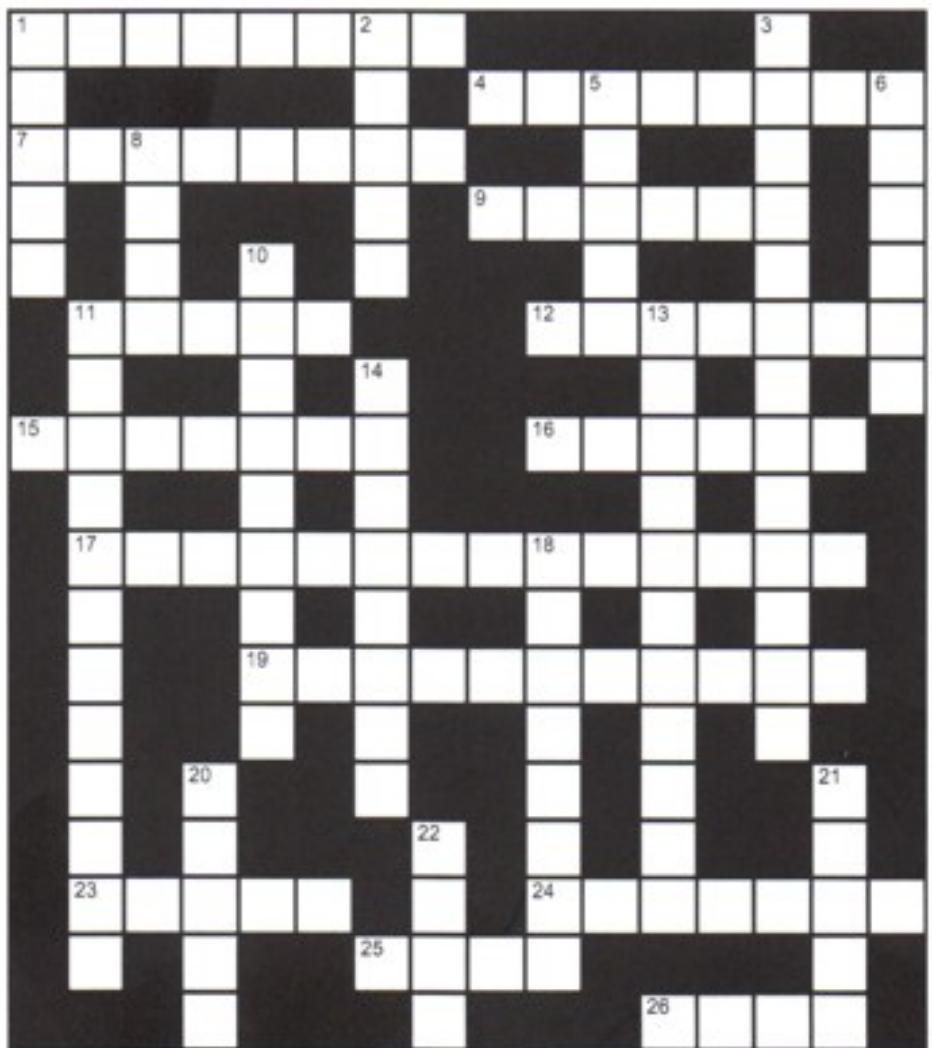
## **Our fascinating history and language**

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be in times gone by.

Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs, etc.) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."



# Royal Crossword

## Across

- 1 Irish plant on Queen's wedding gown (8)  
4 Queen's great great grandmother (8)  
7 Queen's jubilee in 2017 (8)  
9 Middletons lived here in 1984 (6)  
11 Kate Middleton's brother (5)  
12 Camilla's current title (7)  
15 Scottish plant on Queen's wedding gown (7)  
16 Name of Meghan's former blog (3,3)  
17 Prince Charles belongs to this Institution (3,5,6)  
19 William was in Air Ambulance Service here (4,7)  
23 Number of lines that go through Green Park Tube Station (5)  
24 Prince Harry's favourite football team (7)  
25 Thomas Markle's nickname for Meghan (4)  
26 One of the Queen's middle names (4)

## Down

- 1 Name of Queen's first dog (5)  
2 Queen's favourite dog breed (5)  
3 Prince Harry's best man (6,7)  
5 Where Prince Philip was born (5)  
6 Month Diana died in 1997 (6)  
8 Name of Harry & Meghan's dog (4)  
10 Prince Harry's birth month (9)  
11 Diana danced with him at the White House in 1985 (4,8)  
13 Coffee company Meghan has invested in (5,6)  
14 Prince Andrew's wife's maiden name (8)  
18 Nationality of Autumn Phillips (8)  
20 Prince Philip's first school (city) (5)  
21 Country where Edoardo proposed to Princess Beatrice (5)  
22 Welsh plant on Queen's wedding gown (4)

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## Old Newtonians Handbell Ringers

*Sue Smart*

Hello again! This is our second post for the Parish Magazine and we're taking full advantage of this to encourage you to join us.

To begin with, be assured that you do not need to be able to read music or be a talented musician. What we do need is enthusiasm, commitment to two evenings per week (Tues & Thurs 7-9pm in Newton Institute), a sense of humour and an element of rhythm! We all have very different backgrounds (some shadier than others!) and our ages are subject to the Official Secrets Act but when we get together we are a great TEAM, with a great taste in biscuits.

The range of music we are currently tackling includes a beautiful Ukrainian folk tune called Vasylyna's Tears which was written in honour of the Ukrainian people who continue to struggle for their freedom and the gist of it is how she weeps for her countrymen. It is so poignant and one of our new favourites. We're also practicing -Bridge Over Troubled Water, Suo Gan, Bel Canto (Sing Beautifully), Classic Easter (Halleluiah Chorus/Hymn to Joy/Thine Be the Glory), Jerusalem, It Is Finished and Within The Darkest Night - to name but a few pieces!

We performed at our first post-Covid 'Back to Ringing' handbell rally in North Bristol in early May, which was attended by teams across the South West region. Some were much smaller than ours, played very different music (ranging from the CanCan to Pomp & Circumstance) and it was a good opportunity to meet fellow handbell ringers and swap stories, music, playing tips and do some mass ringing together. A little bit of normality at last!

We have been approached by the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB) South West region to hold a **Welsh Rally**. An exciting prospect that'll involve lots of organization. When we can all get together to discuss logistics, dates, venues and who makes the tea, we'll let the world know (you'll be amongst the first!). In the meantime why not pop along one evening and get to know us – and maybe pick up a handbell for the first time!

Next practice is **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June** and we'd LOVE to see you!  
Contact is Tim Tilt - 07749 254131 or [thetilts@hotmail.com](mailto:thetilts@hotmail.com)

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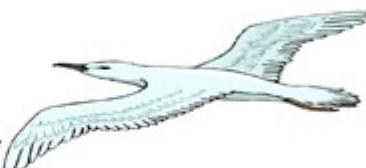
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

freedom from constraint, captivity, slavery, or tyranny: freedom to do as one pleases:

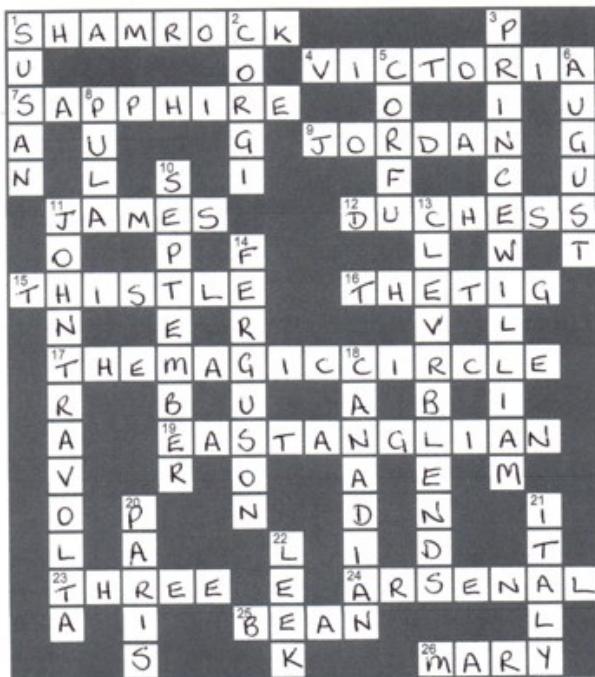
the unrestrained enjoyment of natural rights: power of free choice : privileges:

permission free range: leisure: disposal: the bounds within which certain privileges are enjoyed .

"Chambers"

# Royal Crossword Answer

from puzzle on Page 28-29



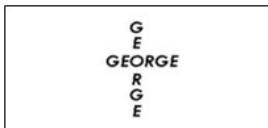
## Royal Anagrams Answers

from puzzles on Page 20

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. GARDEN PARTY        | 4. CORONATION      |
| 2. TROOPING THE COLOUR | 5. ROYAL ASCOT     |
| 3. CHANGING THE GUARD  | 6. REMEMBRANCE DAY |

## Royal Dingbats Answers

from puzzles on Page 21



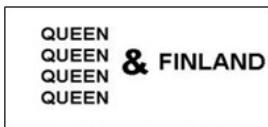
GEORGE CROSS



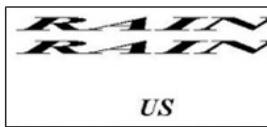
LADY IN WAITING



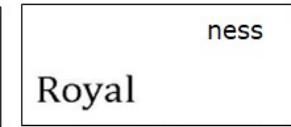
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## **Pause for Thought**

### **Serve**

The Queen has served her country and Commonwealth for 70 years. To honour her, why not join together in 70 Acts of Service. Here are some ideas to get you started....

1. Think of an everyday item that's in good condition. Find a recipient and give it away or take it to your local charity shop.
2. Drop a small card to a hidden hero, just to let them know they're noticed.
3. Strike up a conversation with someone you don't know or someone you might not usually 'see'.
4. Plant a community garden. Who could you work with in your local area on this?
5. Fix something quick and simple for someone today. Change a light bulb, sew on a button, or teach someone a few shortcuts on the computer.
6. Tackle a community clean up that makes an impact – contact your friends and neighbours with some suggested dates and times and see who responds!
7. Cook for your friends, family or neighbours tonight and try to make sure everyone sits together to eat at the same time. Don't rush the meal – enjoy each other's company.

For more ideas visit [www.theplatinumjubilee.com/serve/](http://www.theplatinumjubilee.com/serve/)



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### Clergy:

Fr Jonathan Durley ( <i>MA Leader</i> )	01656 670148	<a href="mailto:jonathandurley@churchinwales.org.uk">jonathandurley@churchinwales.org.uk</a>
Canon Philip Masson	01656786899	<a href="mailto:office@parishofporthcawl.org">office@parishofporthcawl.org</a>
The Rev'd Dr Duncan Walker	01656 740500	<a href="mailto:revduncan.walker@hotmail.co.uk">revduncan.walker@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Fr Mark Broadway	07429143959	<a href="mailto:frmark@parishofporthcawl.org">frmark@parishofporthcawl.org</a>
Fr Geoff Lunn	07903669247	<a href="mailto:curate@parishofporthcawl.org">curate@parishofporthcawl.org</a>
The Rev'd Claire Stowell	07813 767956	<a href="mailto:stowellclaire@gmail.com">stowellclaire@gmail.com</a>

### Reader:

Mrs Grace Wylde	07966 083196	<a href="mailto:gwyldel6@outlook.com">gwyldel6@outlook.com</a>
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### Chair of the Ministry Area Council:

Mrs Wendy Xerri	07752 487467	<a href="mailto:wendy@xerri.wales">wendy@xerri.wales</a>
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### Area Wardens:

Mr Gareth Baker	07791 367918	<a href="mailto:gareth.baker@acuitylaw.com">gareth.baker@acuitylaw.com</a>
Mr David-Lloyd Jones	07747 151205	<a href="mailto:davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com">davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com</a>

### Treasurer:

Dr Paul Smart	01656 788086	<a href="mailto:pmsmart@aol.com">pmsmart@aol.com</a>
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### Safeguarding Officer:

Mr Dave Xerri	07850 129079	<a href="mailto:dave@xerri.wales">dave@xerri.wales</a>
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### Church subwardens:

All Saints, Porthcawl	Mrs Helen Owen	01656 785763
	Mr Phillip Angell	01656 710948
Saint John the Baptist, Newton	Mr Peter Henry	01656 782659
	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
	Mrs Vanessa Evans	01656 530615
	Mrs Gwyneth Vincent	07368300117
Saint Theodore, Kenfig Hill	Mrs Margaret Phillips	07748 678827
	Mrs Margaret Griffiths	07477 648871
Margam Abbey	Mr Robert Cross	01639 882094
	Mrs Bev Gulley	07530 421220

### Hall Bookings

Parish Hall, Pyle	Sue Roberts	01656 741030
All Saints, Porthcawl	<a href="mailto:allsaintschurchhall@gmail.com">allsaintschurchhall@gmail.com</a>	
St David, Nottage	Clive Edwards	01656784698
St John the Baptist, Newton	Gareth Lewis	07552733857
Margam Abbey Hall	Bev Gulley	07530 421220
	Or Robert Cross	01639 882094
St Theodore's, Kenfig Hill	<a href="mailto:sttheodoreshk@hotmail.com">sttheodoreshk@hotmail.com</a>	