

Summer 2022



M A R G A M

Tyfu Ynghyd yng Nghrist - Growing Together in Christ

60p

WORSHIP IN THE MINISTRY AREA

ALL SAINTS, Porthcawl

Sunday: Mass at 08.00 & 10.00
Monday: Mass at 12.00
Wednesday: Mass at 10.30
Saturday: Mass at 09.30

MARGAM ABBEY, Margam

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

ST DAVID'S, Nottage

Sunday: Mass at 09.30 & 17.00
Thursday; Mass at 10.30

ST JAMES, Pyle

Sunday: Mass at 11.00
Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Newton

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

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

Summer sunshine and smiles



Summer is here! And, for many of us, holidays are just around the corner...at last! Even if we're not going away, we're lucky enough to live in a holiday town and can share that summer spirit with the people all around us.

Our fingers are tightly crossed that the weather is good for the various summer fairs, weddings and other celebrations - the sunshine makes a big difference, although as we've waited a while for the return of these events, I'm sure they'll draw the crowds whatever the weather!

Once again, the magazine is packed with interesting articles, reports and snippets and we're treated to a wonderful round-up of the Jubilee Celebrations too. Thank you to all our contributors - it is the variety of stories that is so appreciated by our readers.

I hope you are able to take some time for yourself over the summer. Stop. Take a breath. Relax. You may choose to sit quietly somewhere or do as I do and indulge in some people-watching! However you do it, enjoy the world around you and I'll see you in the September issue.

All contributions for the September issue to be to me by 20th August, please.

Have a super, sizzling summer!

Helen Murdoch

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

Keep up with Ministry Area news and updates:

On the brand new website: www.margam.org.uk

And remember the Facebook pages too:

www.facebook.com/PorthcawlParish

www.facebook.com/TheParishOfKenfigHill

www.facebook.com/MargamAbbey/

www.facebook.com/pyleandkenfigchurches

Dear Friends,

As I am writing this for the July edition of the MA Magazine, I am also trying to get through a growing to-do list, before going on pilgrimage to the Oberammergau Passion Play. This has been solemnly observed for nearly 400 years. Due to the Pandemic, the Passion Play, usually held at the beginning of each decade, was postponed to this year.

400 years ago, Europe was hit by another pandemic, the Black Death, which it was estimated claimed 25 million lives. In 1633 at the end of the Thirty Years War, a newly-wed soldier managed to slip past guards and watch fires, bringing in with him the Black Death bubonic plague, which swept through the village of Oberammergau. In the following few weeks, 64 people from the village succumbed to the disease and lost their lives.

The villagers at the time gathered in the Parish Church in front of the crucifix and made a solemn vow that if God would halt the plague, they would re-enact the last week of Jesus' life once every ten years as a token of piety and gratitude. In 1634, the first Oberammergau Passion Play was performed in the field opposite the Church. In 1680 it was decided to hold the play at the beginning of each decade.

This solemn vow has been strictly observed by the people of the village generation after generation. This year's play is the 42nd which is still enacted only by the descendants of those who took the vow, those born in the village or who have lived there for at least 20 years.

For many of us, the summer means taking some time out either for holiday, retreat or rest. Perhaps a change of scene, a bit of peace. In his short, but intensely busy ministry, Jesus knew the value of rest and prayer. He took restorative time in a boat, in the desert, on the mountain top, to prepare to return to the clamouring community and meet its need with compassionate action and healing. He said to his disciples 'Come away with me all by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.'

We all need time to retreat from the active outer life to the inner life to renew and re-energise our hearts, minds and bodies; to redirect our thoughts to what we love and care about, to reassess what

matters most! To take time to wonder, pay attention and to pray.

Whatever you are doing this summer I do hope you are able to have some time to retreat, so that when the Autumn comes, you will be able to re-engage, refreshed in all that God invites us to do.

On Monday July 25th, Fr. Mark Greenaway-Robbins will be licensed as Vicar in the Ministry Area in Margam Abbey at 7pm. Ruth Greenaway-Robbins will be ordained Deacon on Saturday 25th June in Llandaff Cathedral and she will serve as a Deacon in the Ministry Area. I hope as many as possible will be able to attend the licensing service, when we can welcome them. (Parking is available in the Main Visitor Car Park in Margam Park and entry to the Abbey through the side door opposite The Orangery.) Please hold both Ruth and Mark in your prayers as they prepare to move.

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

Events across the Ministry Area

Saturday 9 July, 11.30am - 4pm, **St John's Summer Fayre** on Newton Green. Everyone is welcome!

Saturday 9 July at 5pm at Margam Abbey, **Swansea Bach Choir** present Sun, Sea, Sky, Stars

Tickets £15 at the door or at 07966 192097: Free parking in Margam Park main car park.

Saturday 16 July, 7pm at All Saints Church, Porthcawl

Cor Bro Ogwr present Vivaldi's Gloria The Sunshine Mass by Gjeilo

Tickets £10 at the door or at 01656 653326

Saturday 23 July, **Pyle & Kenfig Summer Fayre** in the Church Hall. Come and join the fun!

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

Church Facilities

Details about the facilities available for hire at www.margam.org.uk

Booking contacts are on the back page of this magazine.

Mission, Outreach, Children and Young People Group

James Thomas

Food Poverty – Family Breakfast, Pyle Church Hall

We're launching a Family Breakfast to help against food poverty in our local area, to be based in Pyle Church Hall. Breakfasts to be available on Saturdays from July. There'll also be a Social Supermarket or Pantry where a bag of food can be purchased for a cut-down price. If you'd like to volunteer, speak to Jan on 01656 733635 or 07813 095778. This is a Ministry Area-wide activity and all are welcome to volunteer.

The Abbot's Kitchen, Margam Abbey

The group expressed great interest in helping to re-open the Abbot's Kitchen at Margam Abbey and see it as a cornerstone to Outreach in the Ministry Area. The aspiration is to re-open as soon as possible. If you'd like to be a volunteer, contact Bev Gulley at Margam Abbey or James Thomas on 07432 483527

Sharing the Christmas Message

At Christmas no child should be without a toy to open, to be able to share in the Joy of the birth of Jesus. Later this year we'll be collecting new or nearly-new toys in their original boxes for re-distribution through local charities. Next time you sort and find anything suitable, please keep them. More details to follow soon!

The next Mission, Outreach, Children and Young People's meeting will be held on Thursday 21st July at 6:30pm in St David's Church, Nottage.

WANTED: We want people with the following skills or an interest in being involved in a new type of service in the Ministry Area. If you or someone you know might be interested, please pass this on. Age is no issue and you don't have to be a regular worshipper or a professional!

Band Members - Singer: We're forming a worship group and looking for musicians, instrumentalists and singers.

Sound Board Operator: We want folk interested in sound or who can operate a sound board setup for a service or folk who'd like to learn.

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

Live Streaming - Filming: We want folk interested in or able to live stream services or make small videos for Instagram or Facebook.

'This is the bishop speaking:

'How far are you from Ogmore by Sea?'

A mile, I said, by boat. Eleven miles by road. So began Fr Geoff's ministry with us in 2019. We thought it was for three years and then beyond my retirement but alas.....

When the new ministry Area was set up on 17th March all the clergy were re-licensed and had to make afresh the declarations required under the Constitution. We did this before the service started. Fr Geoff hadn't arrived at that point, caught in traffic, so we expected him to do this afterwards. To our surprise and consternation and without any consultation or conversation with Fr Geoff or anyone else he was not given a Licence but another document altogether called 'Permission to Officiate' - he was no longer, in the views of the Bishop, part of our clergy team. Weeks later, in May, Geoff met with the bishop: he had completed his curacy, she said and she wanted him to leave us three weeks later, or at the most by the last Sunday in June.

We thought this unkind and unreasonable both to Geoff and to us. As you will see on pages 12 & 13, Fr Geoff will retire on 31st July after three years and a bit here. There will be a **Parish Mass at 10.00** on that day in All Saints, with refreshments afterwards. By Fr Geoff's insistence we will not be having the usual collection but he would like a card signed by everyone.

This will give us an opportunity to thank Geoff for his considerable contribution to our life here. His technical help during Covid and his pastoral care of the housebound and infirm, his readiness to assist one and all and his genial nature have given us a great asset which we will all miss. For myself and Fr Mark (who is away on 31st) he is always a good and generous colleague with whom we have shared much joy and laughter in our shared priesthood.

You do not retire when you retire as a priest, so after a month off, Geoff will no doubt be helping elsewhere. For us here in Porthcawl he will always be welcome. We wish him ever joy and blessing

Fr Philip

Money, Money, Money

Fr Mark Broadway

2 Kings 22:3-7

Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah sent the scribe, Shaphan son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying, "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him count the money that has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have collected from the people. And let them deliver it into the hands of the supervisors of those doing the work on the house of the LORD, who in turn are to give it to the workmen repairing the damages to the house of the LORD— to the carpenters, builders, and masons— to buy timber and dressed stone to repair the temple. But they need not account for the money put into their hands, since they work with integrity."

During my time at Vicar School I was blessed by a gift of money. That particular gift was a Book Grant given to students to aid their study. I forget now which particular books I was able to buy with the grant (the list may well have included Calvin's Institutes), but the grant enabled me to get what I needed without prejudicing the money set aside for my family. These sorts of grants, usually come from organisations which run parallel to the Church because, despite what some seem to think, the Church itself is not rolling in cash. In these cases, Christians have grouped together to support ministry financially - because **ministry is both costly and valuable.**

In our passage from 2 Kings, we see the skilled workers, and their supervisors, who were involved with the repair of the Temple during the reign of King Josiah. Josiah was only a young man, but he was willing to listen to the voice of God in scripture. Josiah saw that the Temple had come to ruin and he spared no expense in rebuilding - ensuring that those tasked with the job were properly resourced.

As Christians, we know that "the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands." (Acts 7:48), and that the time has come when worshippers don't need to worship in Jerusalem but must "worship in Spirit and in truth" (John 4:21-24). Nevertheless, we are *building* upon

the foundations laid by the apostles, (1 Corinthians 3:10), and that foundation is Christ himself.

We must be diligent and expert labourers on this construction site - the Church. Has Church ever felt like something of a construction site to you?! We want well trained, well resourced, builders - and we want supervisors who have in their mind's eye something of God's plan. This is the work of all God's people, each bringing what they can - and each doing what they can. It is vitally important that we continue to resource gospel ministry; because without it the building stops. If we believe gospel ministry to be God's work then we have the privilege of building to God's glory here no less than Josiah did.

Thankfully, due to your generosity, and the generosity of our forebears, we are already able to do a lot. We want to thank you for the part you play in all that we do. We have public worship every day, prayer groups, fellowship groups, coffee mornings and socials. In each case, we want to equip those involved to the highest degree - but we also want to be able to do more. We want to see more people reached with the Good News, and more people served by the love of God in practical ways; and so there is more that I and others could do - supporting and building up each local church. Together we need to dig deeper, work harder, and give sacrificially to the work of God.

Gospel Ministry is both costly and valuable. It is no less costly than the rebuilding efforts of king Josiah - but, its value has an eternal quality. I hope that you will continue to play your part.

Short prayers

Peter (Matthew 14 v 30): "Lord, save me."

A Canaanite woman (Matthew 15v 25): "Lord, help me."

Samuel (1 Samuel 3 v 10): "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Michelangelo: "Lord, make me see your glory in every place."

Gladys Aylward: "O God, give me strength."

William Barclay: "O God, keep me from being difficult to live with."

John Wesley: "O Lord, let us not live to be useless, for Christ's sake."

Dear Friends,

The Church has her own special liturgical year and calendar in which she presents the history and unchanging mysteries of our salvation, from Creation to the Second Coming. We look back to the saving events of the Old Testament, remember the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, and look to the consummation of all things in Him.

But this is not just a repetition. Jesus Christ makes Himself known through the remembering and gives the Church opportunity to reflect on this: His birth, life, sacrifice, and resurrection.

Each church year is a period of formation. We encounter God's will and ponder its impact upon us. Each Sunday and feast will present a special lesson to us which we can make part of our daily living.

The Church year revolves around two great cycles: Christmas: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany; and Easter: Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. This throws up the question of what happens during the rest of the year.

Two periods of the liturgical year are termed "ordinary time" and these link the Christmas and Easter cycles. One is the Season after Epiphany, and the other is the Season after Pentecost.

The Season after Pentecost lasts from the Monday after Pentecost Sunday until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday of this season is Trinity Sunday, and the last Sunday is the Sunday before Advent.

The Season after Pentecost is known as "Ordinary Time." This doesn't mean that it's unremarkable, simply that it's part of the church's year.

The Anglican Church in North America provides some insight in this matter. Here is their view of the Book of Common Prayer: *"The Book of Common Prayer is a form of prayers and praises that is thoroughly Biblical, catholic in the manner of the early centuries, highly participatory in delivery, peculiarly Anglican and English in its roots, culturally adaptive and missional in a most remarkable way, utterly accessible to the people, and whose repetitions are intended to form the faithful catechistically and to give them doxological voice."*

By ordinary time they mean numbered, in the sense of ordinal num-

bers, because the Sundays of Ordinary Time are counted. Here is how they introduce the Season after Pentecost: *“The Easter Season includes and ends with the Day of Pentecost. The First Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday. All subsequent Sundays have numbered propers and may be designated as “after Pentecost” or “after Trinity.” As the ordinary time progresses we count the Sundays which lead us away from Trinity Sunday.”*

The liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green. During the Season after Pentecost, we focus on the life of the Church as it grows in the midst of the world. Robert Webber in *The Services of the Christian*, explains: *“During this season, many worship traditions follow lectionaries that highlight the work of the Spirit in the mission of the church in the world. Other churches organize their worship life around continuous readings from a given section of Scripture.”*

Webber notes, one of the reasons why Ordinary Time is different from other liturgical seasons is that: *“The various Sundays are not connected by a particular theme. In Advent we await the coming of Christ; during Christmas, we celebrate His arrival; and at Epiphany, we proclaim that Christ is manifested to the world as Saviour. During Lent, we prepare for the death; in Holy Week, we re-enact His death, then in Easter, we celebrate His resurrection and complete the Easter cycle with the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. But in this non-festive season of the church year, there is no unified theme that ties the Sundays together.”*

The Season after Pentecost highlights the Church living her vocation in the midst of the world, recalling that every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops explains this well: *“Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into our lives until all things are finally caught up in Christ. “*

“Ordinary time” is our opportunity to live our lives as Christians. However, since we follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, this is part of an extraordinary journey.

With Christian Greetings, Duncan

Bitter Sweet

Fr Geoff Lunn

I am afraid I have to be blunt. This is my last article in the magazine. I leave the Ministry Area at the end of July for a month's break and then pastures new. It is bitter sweet.

Bitter because I cannot say personal goodbyes to each and every one of you, although I will try. I have always preferred one-to-one, especially at moments like this. No doubt I'll shake hands with some of you and smile, but it will be bitter sweet.

Yes it is cruel. There has to be a clean break. The same clean break I made with the East Vale Group when I left them to come here. That was harder as it was my 'home turf' so to speak. The place I hold dearest in my heart. This, though, is not just a hammer blow for me. It also affects all of you and not least my colleagues in Newton Nottage Porthcawl. Mark especially, will need your full cooperation in the months to come.

The sweet part is, for the first time since 31st December 1999, I will actually be retiring. Bishop June has granted me permission to officiate.

Above all this, thankfully, are the happy memories of the years I spent in the East Vale and in Baglan, now increased by three crazy years in Newton Nottage Porthcawl! Eight months as Deacon 'in the parish' and then the other four served at home during the first lockdown. That brought the amazing moments a small band of you had with me on Zoom every Wednesdays@6pm. Plus a chance for me to walk in Father Philip's footsteps and livestream Evening Prayer from my home.

At the end of that year another bitter sweet moment: I was to be ordained priest (finally!) But...the cathedral's restrictions meant three of us had to miss the usual Petertide moment. This split a happy band of six deacons in half. The awesome part was that I was ordained priest on the Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6th 2020. An honour in more ways than the mundane.

When I first came to All Saints, to see the parish and meet with Father Philip, I sat in the church and stared at the beautiful east end window. The star in the middle of it seemed to encourage me to stay so I did. It still is special to me. As was the first Saturday in the parish at the Newton Summer Fayre 2019, can't wait for this year's return! Then there was the time I looked down at the floor near the altar in Saint John's and saw a name I knew: my 17 times great grand father, Watkin Lougher! Then my first Eucharist in St David's. Do you remember the hymns? The closing one was 'Here in the Power of Christ I Stand'! Whereas that was how I felt about being a priest, I also believe it of each and every one of us. We do nothing without the Holy Spirit. In these early days of Pentecost season, the words of our Lord before his ascension, from Luke 24:49, still ring in our ears:

“And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Later, Luke will write in Acts 1:4-5:

“While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”

And then, of course, on the day of Pentecost, all this comes true!! It is that Holy Spirit that helps us stand in the power of Christ and binds us together, with bonds that cannot be broken.

As most of you know, my home in Ogmore by Sea looks out over Porthcawl. Give me a wave, now and then, please? I'll be waving too!

Good luck!

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Bridgend Foodbank

Judith Shawe

I'm really pleased to say that food collection will resume in the three churches in Porthcawl on the first Sunday of each month. Please give basics such as tea, coffee, sugar, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, pasta, rice, dried milk etc before treats. Food should always be in date.

Toiletries are always needed - again basics first - soap, men/women's deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, bath/shower gel. hairbrushes and combs (unused), women's' sanitary products.

Dry Pet food is also always welcome.

I'm happy to take donations of money, and I have Gift Aid forms should they be required.

Thank you so much for all your help and donations, I really hope you know how much it is appreciated. Ring me (01656 786446) if you have any questions, or need me to collect food or money.

Porthcawl is just one of the foodbanks in the Bridgend area. Visit www.bridgend.foodbank.org.uk. for more information.

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200 Club News

Linda Fletcher and Janice Parkinson

The first draw of our 2022-2023 year has taken place on a very rainy and changeable day - so we say a big thank you to all those who made it to All Saints on Saturday 18th June for the Scone Tea.

Our first winner of 2022 was the Rector - £100. Other winners were Adam Phillips - £75, a newcomer winning on his first go!; Gareth Lewis - £50, and Mrs Ann Howells - £25.

Our numbers are creeping up but there are still places if you would like to join and have a chance in our 4 draws each year for only a £10 yearly membership. But please remember you do not have to be a member to come along and join the social events and meet up with people from all over the area. The menu is different with the seasons and we usually have a raffle and stalls.

Next event: Saturday 20 August at 10.30am in St John's Schoolroom, Newton. Danish & Coffee, £2.50 as usual (no price rises here as yet!). We'll also be in the Schoolroom on 9 July for the Summer Fayre. Why not pop in for a cuppa and a cake or snack!
We look forward to seeing you soon!

Congratulations to two new doctors

Congratulations to Dr Harriet Maine and Dr Catrin Masson, both of whom qualified as doctors this summer, Catrin from Bristol and Harriet from Cardiff.

Harriet will spend the next two years working in a hospital in Torquay and Catrin will be moving to the Wirral for her hospital training.

Many years of study and hard work have paid off!

Our very best wishes go to them both for a long and fulfilling career.

Test and Trace – BEWARE! From John Berry BEM

I recently received a text message saying I had been in contact with someone who'd tested positive with Covid 19. I reacted immediately, even though I'd seen only 3 people during the week, one being the dentist.

I went onto the computer to open the message fully and started to fill out the form until I came to being asked for my bank details to pay 99p postage! THIS WAS A SCAM!!

News from All Saints

Pam Rossini



We have been spoilt with an abundance of entertainment, nationally and locally with the events of the Queen's Jubilee.

The celebrations started with the Trooping of the Colour, followed by 124 round gun salute on the 2 June. The Queen joined the Royal Family on the balcony and all were thrilled with the spectacle of the fly-past. Later, with the power of technology, the Queen pressed a button on a magic ball and started a chain of beacons lit throughout the country.

The 3 June was a day of thanksgiving and a service at St Paul's Cathedral. The choir and music was emotional and uplifting and all the participants there to celebrate their exceptional Queen.

The 4 June gave us a night of musical tributes with a variety of entertainers from across the world.

Sunday 5 June was a host of Jubilee lunches, some rained off and some just dampened down, but our Queen turned out for the last of the Jubilee concerts - she was in good form and her smile said it all.

Here in Porthcawl our big event was on the Saturday with a Music & Flower Festival - a feast for the eyes and a joy to the ears. Maureen Fargie and her team of flower arrangers had really pulled out all the stops, the choirs superb and the sketches of the Queen by Porthcawl school children deserved 10 out of 10 for effort and likeness.

Recently the 200 Club met in the church hall with a lovely cream tea by Janice and team. This was not so well attended as the weather was against us, sunnier days to come, we hope.

Some of our parishioners have been poorly but are now recovering. Doris Sadeghi was in church last week - such a smiley, happy lady.

This Sunday we have a christening - young Elias, the youngest child of Alicia and Tom Payne. We expect to see a big christening party with lots of little children. It is always good to see the church filled with young and old joining together in celebration. Hopefully the wind and rain will abate for this but at the moment the roses are bedraggled, the lavender is flattened and geraniums a soggy mess - come on June, blaze a little.



Jubilee Weekend in Porthcawl

Pat Parry

We've been looking forward to the Platinum Jubilee, an event in a lifetime. The Union Jacks and bunting adorned many houses and people had planted red, white and blue flowers in their gardens. The Council organised a competition for the best shop window display and primary school children drew pictures of the queen and designed crowns.

On Friday morning there was a very well attended coffee morning for the museum in the YMCA. Extra tables had to be put up and the hall was full. There was a Royal quiz, raffle and sales of Jubilee memorabilia. It was nice to see everyone again after the last two years.

The Council donated 70 very large, iced cakes for various events and street parties. The weather was warm and sunny, there were stalls in the street and the town was buzzing. In the afternoon there was a tea outside Trinity church with entertainment by Sounds Familiar and Porthcawl Male Choir.

On Saturday, the Music and Flower Festival was held in All Saints. The first 70 to arrive were served a glass of bubbly and the Royal Toast was made by Roy Noble followed by an address by the Mayor. The music was organised by Erica Beynon. There was a short play by the U3A play reading group followed by a concert by Col Canto. As Cor Meibion Maesteg were unable to attend we were treated to solos by some very talented young people, singers and instrumentalists and by members of Col Canto. The flower arrangers had made wonderful displays on a Royal theme set out around the church. The day finished with a short concert by Porthcawl Community Orchestra ending with the two National Anthems.

On Sunday a Service of Thanksgiving was held in Trinity Church organised by the Jubilee Committee and Churches Together. It was led by Rev John Hansen with Mike Boyles on the organ. Children from different churches led the prayers and read pieces that they had written in school about the Queen. They all spoke very well and clearly. The service was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan, the Mayors of Porthcawl and Bridgend Borough and people who have been

honoured by the Queen, as well as representatives of organisations and charities in the town. Following the service, a sumptuous afternoon tea was served in the Church Hall with music by members of the Community Orchestra. The Royal Toast was proposed, followed by short speeches and a rendition of the National Anthems.

Those arranging street parties on Sunday were unlucky with the weather as it rained all day. The street party in The Retreat had to retreat indoors into our son and daughter in law's house!
What a weekend to remember!

A Day I Will Always Remember

David Parry

I had an orthodontic appointment In Liverpool - the service was not available in North Wales. The journey, with my mother, began from Connah's Quay to Birkenhead on a Crossville bus, then an exciting trip on a ferry boat across the River Mersey. The journey was long, so we had refreshments - I had my very first chocolate éclair, it was wonderful. My mother had booked tickets to see the pantomime in the Empire Theatre, starring Jimmy Jewell and his cousin Ben Wallis.

We went into a big store. After a minute or so a women screamed loudly "The King is dead". The shop emptied in a few minutes; the streets emptied and all the traffic stopped. Liverpool fell silent. A bell started to toll on the Anglican Cathedral. The Cathedral bells had been dedicated by Princess Elizabeth a few weeks before.

We walked up Rodney Street, passing the Cathedral on the way to the orthodontist. He tried to take an impression of my teeth. My gag reflex came into play. I lost my cream éclair and the orthodontist's white jacket was no longer pristine. I was very embarrassed.

We went to the theatre, but it had closed. I was very disappointed. I had so looked forward to seeing the great stars of the day. The shops had all closed and had black drapes in their windows. We could not see any buses and worried that we may not be able to get home. Fortunately, the underground train to Birkenhead was still running and we caught a bus home.

I will never forget the day of the 6th of February 1952.

St John's Summer Fayre

Saturday 9th July on Newton Green

It's almost upon us - the much-awaited return of St John's Summer Fayre - a fantastic afternoon on Newton Green.



The church bell ringers will give us a musical reminder before the official opening at 12 noon. Stalls and refreshments will then open and the entertainment begins with the amazing Rock Choir. At 1pm, the Elindia Belly Dancers shake us all up, followed by Punch & Judy and a Magic Show. Porthcawl Male Voice choir take to the stage with Undercurrent, one of Porthcawl's most highly regarded duos, taking a bow at 2.45pm. The Performance House showcase songs from shows as the stage finale. The raffle is to be drawn at 4pm and the day closes with the legendary Tug of War between The Ancient Briton and The Jolly Sailor.

So much to keep us all entertained, fed and watered throughout the day. Break into your piggybanks and get ready for a fantastic time. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dr Janet Skiffins

Anne Piggot (Jan's niece)

We recently celebrated the life of Dr Janet Mary Skiffins, a remarkable Aunty, friend and leader. She was a most kind, amazing lady, very loving and lived life to the full, when she was able.

The Rector conducted the most delightful service to a packed church. It was a privilege to celebrate all that my Aunty was to me and all those around her. It was lovely also to have lunch, after the service, where she taught her Sunday School pupils. Janet adored her church and her faith was the foundation of her life.

She will be greatly missed but her spirit, kindness & love will shine on.

Thank you to all the wonderful friends who loved her, as Jan loved you. You are life's treasures and I do appreciate you all.

*In Loving
Memory*

News from St John's

Diane Jackson



June saw us celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and 70 years of our wonderful Queen Elizabeth II. Over 4 days we witnessed all that is good about our country. Some of us put up the bunting (Porthcawl Town's was very disappointing) and celebrated with parties, either indoors or in the street.

Many plaudits have been said and written about the Queen. Among her many titles and roles, one that is relevant to us, is Head of the Church of England and Defender of the Faith. For Her Majesty, they are not just titles. She is a true believer and has tried to live her life as a Christian, following Jesus' footsteps. She is an example to us all, faithful, consistent, tolerant, and genuine. We are truly blessed to have her as our monarch and to have her for so long. She is now the second monarch to have reigned for so long.

Preparations are well under way for the Summer Fayre. How great it will be to have it again after the last 2 years "rest". In case anyone has forgotten(!) there is still a need for donations for the raffle, tombola stall and cakes and savouries for the tea room. Also don't forget to buy raffle tickets. All you need is a deep purse! However I am sure that, as usual, people will be as generous as they can and hopefully it will be another successful day. Let us pray that the weather is good to bring out the crowds to spend on the attractions and stalls.

Finally it is good now to be able to go back to receiving both the sacraments at the altar. Although the taking of wine from the chalice, is optional, many of us are delighted to participate in the full service. Since the pandemic, we have been using an amended version of the Green Book. As a final step into what we knew, perhaps in the not too distant future, we can go back to using the Green Book itself.





Swansea Bach Choir
Côr Bach Abertawe

Sun, Sea, Sky, Stars
Haul, Môr, Wybren, Sêr

Conductor / Arweinydd: Greg Hallam

Margam Abbey / Abaty Margam

Saturday 9th July / Dydd Sadwrn 9fed Gorffennaf
5pm

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News from Margam Abbey

Bev Gulley

We send Ruth Greenaway-Robbins every blessing for her ministry, following ordination as a Deacon on the 25 June.

The Mothers' Union speaker, Gareth Scourfield's short stories made everyone chuckle. June was a busy month for visitors and groups; from the British Archaeological Association, to photography clubs, and the Swansea Valley Historical Society who enjoyed a tour, talk and refreshments. Emma & Richard's wedding was a joy, with accompaniment of Port Talbot Cymric Choir. 'Friends of Margam Park' had a fantastic Jubilee tea in the Church Hall (a former Drill Hall and draped in vintage bunting, it looked the part) - tea courtesy of Cwm Brombil Ladies WI. At 11.30am on Friday 3 June, in conjunction with the national bell ring for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the bells at the Abbey rang, assisted by two young visitors, Jack and Tyler.

On Saturday 9 July at 5pm, the Swansea Bach Choir perform a concert at the Abbey entitled '*Sun, Sea, Sky Stars.*' Details opposite.

Congratulation to Bev and Colin Gulley who celebrate their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 18 July.

We are all looking forward to welcoming our new Priest, Fr Mark Greenaway-Robbins, whose licensing is on Monday 25 July at 7pm. Please note, the (free) parking is at Margam Park main car park, not the Abbey. Refreshments will be in the Church Hall.

The Mothers' Union visit St Mary Magdalene Church Maudlam in July, followed by a meal at the Rose and Crown, Nottage.

We send Aaron & Rhianydd, Siobhan & Adam, Lauren & Daniel and Samantha & Kwasi every good wish for their summer weddings.

The Margam Stones Museum is now open. Free admission, Wednesdays, weekends and Bank Holidays from 10am to 3pm, and housed in one of the earliest Church schools in Wales, it contains 30 inscribed stones and crosses, some dating from the early days of Christianity, pointing to the fact that the Cistercian Abbey, was almost certainly built on or near a site of previous Celtic monasticism. Upstairs, the museum has medieval sculptures and inscriptions from the Abbey Church, including gravestones of Cistercian Abbots.

Pyle & Kenfig Summer Fayre

The Fundraising Team

After two years of lockdown, the churches of St. Mary Magdalene and St. James are finally looking forward to the Saturday 23 July when we shall be holding our annual Summer Fayre at the Church Hall.

The makers and bakers were kept busy over lockdown, raising money for the church through “Make & Bake” and “Pick up a Party” events where people could place their orders for collection. Although this kept us busy and maintained contact with other parishioners, we are all looking forward to a return to the traditional Summer Fayre held at the Church Hall.

There will be the ever popular Craft, Cake, Preserve and Accessories stalls. The Mothers' Union will be holding a stall with a “Household” theme and the gardeners have been busy, ready to stock the plant stall. Light refreshments will be served in the cafe and prosecco available on the patio. The sweet stall and face painting should attract the children. You can try your luck on the bottle and tombola stalls and enjoy the outdoor games including football penalties, golf, basketball and the coconut shy. We are delighted to welcome Kristelle with her paintings and “Blissful Creations” who specialise in slate gifts. The profits from most stalls will contribute to church funds but the Card stall is supporting local charity “Y Bont” and the profits from the Vicar's stall of religious artefacts will be donated to Cancer Research.

Let's hope the weather will be kind and we look forward to seeing you all on the 23 July!

Miscellaneous one-liners....

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

Don't give up on yourself. Even Moses was once a basket case.

Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.

Lead me not into temptation. I can find it myself.

News from St James & St Mary Magdalene

Gwyneth Vincent

Just when you thought it was all over, Pyle and Mawdlam held their Jubilee Tea Party on Friday 10 June. This was not only to celebrate the Queen's reign, but also a party that had been a long time coming. Having been deprived of our usual busy social calendar for the past two years, a full house gathered in the Church Hall determined to enjoy themselves and make the most of the celebrations.

After the National Anthem, there was a celebratory fly past (with toy aeroplanes) ably piloted by Vanessa, Julia and Gwyneth. The buffet was, as usual, of the highest standard as we all tucked in for Queen and country, and never mind the calories!

Throughout the proceedings, Paul Greenaway played the piano, entertaining us with music from the 40s, 50s and 60s. There was the inevitable raffle, without which no church function would be complete. The party ended with a champagne toast to Her Majesty.

The afternoon was a great success, thanks to the generosity of all who attended, bringing raffle prizes and baked goodies. We raised £455 for Church funds.

We now look forward to the Summer Fair on 23 July. Why not come along and grab a bargain and enjoy some refreshments in our café. You will be very welcome.

From Sian Jones - a quote from a 4 year old...

'If I had one wish, Grandma, do you know what it would be?'

'No darling, what's that?'

'That old people didn't have to die and go to heaven.'

'Oh darling, that's lovely'.

But 4 year old doesn't answer, she is clearly thinking. Then she says, with a shrug of her shoulders...

'But then the world would be just really full of old people wouldn't it!'

Our Capital

Adrian Warner

Recently I've made frequent visits to Cardiff to find interesting things for my son with FragileX to engage in. What a bonanza there is. City Hall flanked by the museum is a tiny fraction of a huge area containing very interesting features. The Garden of Remembrance and the Peace Hall across the road have more history and monuments. Just a mile away is the Coal Exchange, Pierhead, Senedd and Techniquet.

Cardiff Castle (with some original Roman masonry) is worthy of many pages. Bute Park, alongside the River Taff, has carvings, flower beds, sports fields, refreshment and information areas. There's a Gorsedd circle and the remains of an abbey, and many specimen and champion trees. The dock feeder runs from Blackweir (with its fish ladder) through the park, behind the castle and then goes underground to emerge around the Spillers and Bakers building, before reaching the docks. Work is underway to uncover part of the underground section to make a waterside oasis area in Churchill Way near to Queen Street.

The Taff Trail runs for 55 miles from the Bay, past Llandaff Cathedral on the way to Brecon via Castell Coch, Quakers Yard, and Merthyr Tydfil. Melingriffith Water Pump is an interesting historical feature that has been restored.

Religious buildings abound - the Norwegian church, temples, churches, mosques and the RC Cathedral in the city centre, near the Masonic Temple. Many have been 'repurposed' and their rich architecture and heritage retained, for instance Insole Court and the Mansion House.

Cefn Onn country park has rhododendrons galore and a path which leads over the ridge north of the city to Caerphilly. The path passes the shafts that were dug to enable the tunnel under the ridge to be excavated for the railway. Flat Holm and Steep Holm are clearly visible from the summit, with Caerphilly Castle a mile northwards. St Fagan's is a must-visit- several times!

There's sport - from white water canoeing, rafting, cycling and fishing to indoor curling and boccia, even an artificial ski slope. A gold painted letterbox opposite the castle notes the success of a cyclist. For music try St. David's Hall, lunchtime organ recitals on the Willis organ in St. John's or the Museum, Millennium Centre & St Edward's Roath.

There are blue plaques (sadly the one on the market entrance remembers an unjust hanging), a skeletal clock, and statues to Roald Dahl, Ivor Novello, Gareth Edwards, Betty Campbell, Captain Scott and his Party and Aneurin Bevan, amongst others. There is so much to enjoy in our Capital.

News from St Theodore's

Margaret Griffiths

A warm welcome is extended to all who come into St Theodore's, whether for a service or any other reason. Since the 2019 re-ordering of the interior of St Theodore's, we have opened up the building to a range of community activities. At present we host:

On Mondays we have a Tai Chi class lead by Gloria Lake at 12.30. Tai Chi is actually a non-contact martial art! However, it a slow and relaxing form of exercise and can help improve your balance. If you decide to give it a go, don't be put off by how long it takes you to learn the moves – you'll get there eventually and meanwhile you are exercising.

The Goldies sing-a-long sessions are on the second Tuesday each month - next session is 12 July. Don't worry if you think you can't sing, no one gives you marks out of ten! Just enjoy meeting other people and singing along to popular songs of the 50s, 60s,70s and even 80s - last time we had a Bucks Fizz song. The session leader comes equipped with backing music and songbooks with the words. There's a £3 donation to the Goldies charity, tea or coffee is included.

Wednesday afternoon from 1.30pm – 3.30pm we welcome Lizzie and Dance to Health. This is a falls prevention dance programme and is a fun and effective form of exercise. Some exercises are carried out while seated, and you follow the programme at your own level. Time for a cuppa and a chat at the end - you're not exercising for 2 hours!

There's an evening Book Group meeting on the third Thursday of the month. This is a group under the auspices of Awen Libraries.

If it's Friday it's Keep Fit for the Over 50s at St Theodore's. Led by Geoff Cheetham, this is from 12noon to 1pm. Geoff has told us that we all start losing muscle power from our 40th birthday, but with strengthening exercises we can reverse this trend. So the class uses exercise bands to give an all body workout!

We're pleased to announce that from the beginning of July, Mrs Kath Blight's children and youth choirs, Da Capo and Crescendo will start rehearsing in the church on a Monday evening.

Last but not least..... My husband Alan and I celebrate our Golden wedding anniversary this year. Fittingly we are going to have a celebration where it all started 50 years ago – in St Theodore's. So on the 16 July we will be welcoming friends and family to the church, with the buffet provided by James Thomas.



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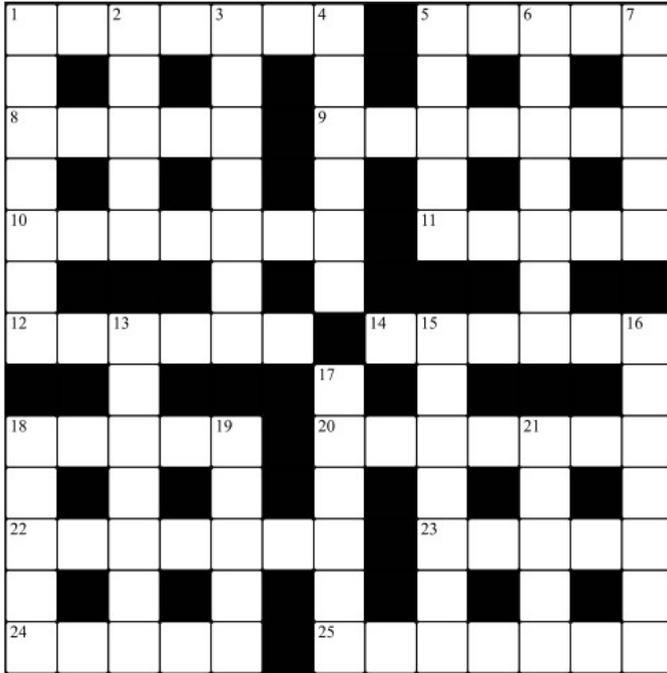
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Jodie and her Team look forward to welcoming all customers old & new!

Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Snared (7)
- 5 Accommodation for prisoners (5)
- 8 Spacious (5)
- 9 Modest bet (7)
- 10 Novel by Sir Walter Scott (7)
- 11 Edible fish (5)
- 12 Portray (6)
- 14 One of the planets (6)
- 18 Wash vigorously (5)
- 20 As a group (2,5)
- 22 Jiffy (7)
- 23 Respond (5)
- 24 Red, in heraldry (5)
- 25 Cajole (7)

Down

- 1 Lingered (7)
- 2 Hawaiian greeting (5)
- 3 Clairvoyant (7)
- 4 Disagree (6)
- 5 Container for condiments (5)
- 6 Disappointed (3,4)
- 7 Swagger (5)
- 13 Sunshade (7)
- 15 Regret (7)
- 16 Emblem of royalty (7)
- 17 Confer, impart (6)
- 18 Item of playground equipment (5)
- 19 Alloy of copper and zinc (5)
- 21 Grassy area (5)

Rosalie Maddy:

A Personal Note from John Berry BEM

Rosalie Maddy became a representative on the Porthcawl Council of Churches in 1985. She proved a worthy member from the beginning, being able and free to participate in any discussion. Ten years later she became the president for the year during which we were to mark the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII. She approached this with unbridled enthusiasm and determined the event would receive the attention deserving of the town. She and I worked together very closely, she personally researched information and effects for use in the service; she was determined we would experience an event reminiscent of those dark days. Together we found records and local people with personal experience we could involve. I rang her at home so frequently she was delighted to tell me that her children had devised a ditty to announce my telephone presence! The service was immensely appreciated; children lit candles and led the centre-piece of the commemoration when Poppy Petals were dropped from the ceiling in the Grand Pavilion for the first time.

She was very keen to play her part as a representative member of the Council of Churches and to see it move forward. The suggestion of a change of name appealed to her with the hope it might revitalise that body and bring it more into the 21st century. Her knowledge of languages and words ensured a very careful examination of the wording as Churches Together in Porthcawl replaced the Council of Churches at the conclusion of her year as President.

When Churches Together felt that the role of the secretary should be shared, Rosalie said she knew she could work with me and offered to take a share alongside Anthony Martin and me. Anthony was unable to continue, so Rosalie and I shared the post until late 2019.

It was a pleasure working with Rosalie. Always meticulous without being dogmatic, but concerned that all the churches be involved in any venture. She had a deep concern for the smaller churches whose membership was elderly and declining. Ever grateful for the work and effort of others she always saw the potential in a person. When she heard of a modern set of Stations of the Cross set in West

London, created at the turn of the century she was very keen to find out if we could use them during Lent in Porthcawl. This open attitude from a Methodist Local Preacher was enlightening, enhanced when it was realised they were actually owned by a Methodist Layman! When we went to collect these works of art, we asked about insuring them while in our possession - she was horrified at being told don't bother about it! An understanding was accomplished with the owner and we left his premises with the artwork in the back of the car without having signed for them or the owner even having any contact with us other than an email address. The Lent Course was a great success and the Artwork displayed in Trinity was viewed by some five hundred people. Rosalie confessed sometime later she was on tenterhooks for six weeks feeling responsible for tens of thousands of pounds worth of art! It was returned to the owner without mishap.

Our last project was to have been the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service for Porthcawl. She came to my house one Friday afternoon; we agreed the order of service and talked about asking the churches and individuals to assist in the leading. We agreed to meet the following Monday to progress that preparation but she messaged me to say she was unwell with a kidney infection. The next day she was in hospital and two days later in intensive care on life support - this was the amateur dramatic actor who a few days previously had bounced into my house full of life and energy, looking forward to bringing together many people across the churches in an act of worship.

Rosalie Maddy's contribution to the life and work across the churches in Porthcawl has been positive, is long-lasting and is immeasurable. It has been a personal privilege and joy to have known and worked closely with Rosalie Maddy over the years and I shall be ever grateful for her contribution to my life.

Others will have other memories, but her mark on the Christian Church in Porthcawl will long be with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Colin, Nick and Louise at this time.

Rest in Peace Rosalie and thank you.

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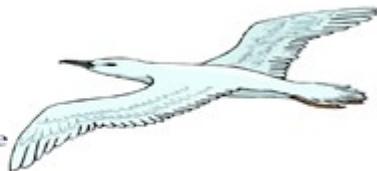
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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

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

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

"Chambers"

Quick Crossword Answer

1	T	R	A	P	P	E	D			5	C	E	L	L	S		7
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8	R	O	O	M	Y			9	F	L	U	T	T	E	R		
	R		H		C		F			E		D		U			
10	I	V	A	N	H	O	E			11	T	R	O	U	T		
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24	G	U	L	E	S			25	W	H	E	E	D	L	E		

Serving God in a seaside parish

Fr Mark recently took part in the Emergency Procedures / Survival at Sea course at the RNLI College in Poole. He explains, “This was two days of learning from the best, using some incredible equipment, getting absolutely battered by the wave machine; and perhaps most importantly, having a laugh with some brilliant people.”

I’m so grateful to be part of a clergy team that enables me to volunteer with the RNLI - as far as I know there are only a few vicars around the UK who have been fortunate enough to go afloat as part of a crew. Local training takes place twice a week, including every Sunday morning.

As a Christian, Sundays are special for me, reserved for worship, rest, and works of mercy. Training with the lifeboat constitutes a work of mercy, and is a very appropriate way for a Christian to spend their time. But being a vicar in a big parish, it can be hard to find time for much of anything except leading worship.

Although it would be impossible for me to join the folks at the Station every Sunday morning, I'm thankful for my colleagues who ensure that I can make it regularly.

Pause for Thought

Charity

“Perhaps the greatest charity comes
when we are kind to each other,
when we don’t judge or categorize someone else,
when we simply give each other
the benefit of the doubt or remain quiet.

Charity is accepting someone’s
differences, weaknesses and shortcomings,
having patience with someone who has let us down,
or resisting the impulse to become offended
when someone doesn’t handle something
the way we might have hoped.

Charity is refusing to take advantage
of another’s weakness
and being willing to forgive someone
who has hurt us.

Charity is expecting the best of each other.”

*Elder Marvin J Ashton
Utah politician
& member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



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Mrs Grace Wylde	07966 083196	gwylde16@outlook.com
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Chair of the Ministry Area Council:

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

Treasurer:

Dr Paul Smart	01656 788086	pmsmart@aol.com
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Safeguarding Officer:

Mr Dave Xerri	07850 129079	dave@xerri.wales
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Church subwardens:

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	Mr Phillip Angell	01656 710948
Saint John the Baptist, Newton	Mr Peter Henry	01656 782659
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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

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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	sttheodoreskh@hotmail.com	