



# Margam

## Ministry Area Magazine



# September 2025



## YMCA PORTHCAWL

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## Change is in the air

Gosh, another summer disappears into the distance and we're moving into autumn already! This is such a great time of year – expectation is in the air as a new term starts and many embark on new adventures.

It's a time of mixed emotions too as our Ministry Area evolves and we say our goodbyes to friends. Margam Abbey is leaving us to move to Port Talbot MA. You have made a valuable contribution to the Ministry Area and, of course, to this magazine, particularly with your friendship and lovely photos. Thank you Bev and the team, we wish you well and look forward to keeping up with your news on social media.

We have also said our goodbyes to Fr Wayne as he moves on to new adventures in Cardiff. We will miss your smiling face, your down-to-earth sermons and your open friendship. Thank you and all our best wishes for the future.

It's also time for our 'official' goodbye to Fr Jonathan as he moves to take up the helm in the Afon Nedd Ministry Area. We wish you and David God's blessings and look forward to expressing our thanks at your farewell mass in September.

In spite of the changes, we are left in the capable hands of Rev Duncan with support from Fr Graham, and look forward to welcoming new faces to our community over the coming months.

Have a good September and I'll see you in the October issue – please send your contributions for the next issue to me by 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Have a super September!

*Helen Murdoch*

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

**COVER IMAGE:** Intrepid Angharad Masson wing walking to raise money for charity

### **Keep up with Ministry Area news and updates:**

On the website: [www.margam.org.uk](http://www.margam.org.uk) and on our Facebook pages too:

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

#### **Margam Calling**

[www.margamcalling.org.uk](http://www.margamcalling.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/MargamCalling](https://www.facebook.com/MargamCalling)

Dear Friends,

*Fr. Jonathan*

It is with mixed emotions I write this final and farewell article for our Ministry Area Magazine. I would like to express my deep gratitude and affection for you all as I prepare to embark on a new chapter of vocation as a Priest. It has not been an easy decision and it is with a sense of both sadness and excitement that I bid farewell to the Margam Ministry Area, a community in which David and I have happily lived and served for the last 18 years, in various capacities.

Over this time so much has happened for which I give thanks to God

- Serving as Asst. Curate in Porthcawl, 2007 - 2010
- Meeting David and celebrating our Civil Partnership with so many of you who joined us on that beautiful June evening in 2018
- Moving from Porthcawl to Kenfig Hill to be its Priest in Charge and Diocesan Community Development Officer in 2010
- Elected to the Governing Body of the Church in Wales 2010
- Serving twice as President of Churches Together in Porthcawl 2009 and 2024
- Having the privilege of serving as school Governor of St John's, Mynydd Cynffig Primary and Cynffig Comprehensive, 2008 -10, 2010 - present, 2022- present respectively
- Joining the Board of Porthcawl YMCA, 2023
- Appointed as your first Ministry Area Leader with all the joys and challenges this has brought, 2020

Plus so many other significant events!

But above all, it is has been the privilege to serve you in all the joys and sorrows which life presents, celebrating and administering the Sacraments which accompanies each step of the journey of life!

I am so grateful for the trust you have placed in me during the most intimate moments of your lives. It has been such an honour and a privilege to celebrate the sacraments with you, to witness the baptism of your children, Grandchildren et al., to bless your marriages, and to accompany you in times of grief and loss. These sacred moments have not only deepened my faith, but they have also been a source of enrichment of my faith in the profound love that God has for each of us. This really has been a source of great blessing.

*Continued Page 7*





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*Fr Jonathan... continued from Page 4*

During my ministry in this area, your prayers have been a source of immense strength and support. To know that I was lifted up in prayer by this community has sustained me through both the joys and challenges of ministry and a reminder that we are all interconnected, united in our faith through Jesus Christ, for which I rejoice.

As I prepare to make the move to Afon Nedd Ministry Area, I carry the memories and experiences I have had the huge privilege to be able to share with all of you. You have all left an indelible mark on my heart, and I will forever be grateful and cherish the relationships we have formed, while also celebrating those special moments we have shared.

So, let us continue to support and pray for one another. I have no doubt that this wonderful community will continue to grow in faith, love, and service, guided by the Holy Spirit.

As David and I move on, please know that you will remain in our prayers, and we ask for your prayers as well. We are indebted to you all for your wonderful love and support, you have been an incredible and special community and we are very privileged to have journeyed with you. Thank you/Diolch.

I don't know when my successor will be appointed, but I pray they will feel the huge privilege and sense of blessing that I have felt to serve alongside you.

No matter the distance that separates us, I know God will unite us all through our faith, as being part of the Body of Christ. So, let us look forward with hope, joy and expectation and pray that God will continue to bless this Ministry Area.

*With love, prayers and thanksgiving,  
Fr. Jonathan x*



*Thank you for  
your love and support*



# **The Nicene Creed**

*John Berry BEM*

The Nicæan Creed was written by the bishops of the church in the year 325 when they were brought together in Nicæa for the purpose of finding unity.

It remains the basis of our Christian faith 1700 years later!

The poem below was written for the 1700th Anniversary BBC Sunday Worship broadcast from Clare College Cambridge. The full text of the service including an interesting reflection by the Dean, is available in the Porthcawl churches.

## **Nicæa 1700 by Rev Laura Darrall**

What do you believe?

As we stand in our pews or rows of chairs, and recite the Nicene Creed, I wonder, what do you believe?

As we sit in a meeting about whether we should use pews or rows of chairs, I wonder, what do you believe?

As we put out the tables and make the coffee, and put out the rota for making the coffee and put out the rota for putting out the tables, what do you believe?

As we sit with a stranger who was looking for quiet, as we hand them a candle to light and remember, as we clear up the crumbs from a mum's giddy toddler, what do you believe?

As we stretch out our hands to share Peace and for bread, as we lift up our voices and bow down our heads, as we love one another just like Jesus said - what do you believe?

Do you believe in the Father who flung stars into space, whose benevolent image can be found in your face, who traced lines of eternity into every embrace, do you believe?

Do you believe in the Son, the second person of the Trinity, the three in one, the one who would come and renew us all with a promise to be with us until the Kingdom will dawn - do you believe?



Do you believe in the Spirit? The giver of life? The teacher of Love and the queller of strife, who pours out its gifts at our baptismal start, and makes us one faith, one body, one heart. Do you believe?

Do you believe in the church? The vessel for God's mission, who is called to stay humble and accept the commission to be beacons of hope and children of light until that day comes when we resurrect and reunite with the one who made us. Do you believe?

We stand with the Saints, we join with their praise, in our pews and our chairs all our voices we raise, to proclaim our faith, our Creed, our Way.

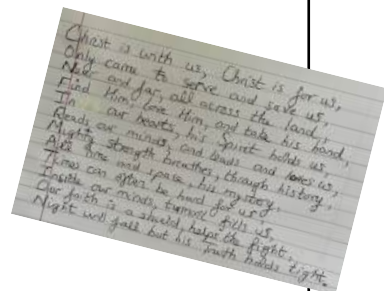
On this 1700th anniversary we say: We believe

## Confirmation

*Gwenda Collins*

I was one of the people confirmed in June and have written an acrostic poem which I would love to share.

**C**hrist is with us, Christ is for us,  
**O**nly came to serve and save us,  
**N**ear and far, all across the land,  
**F**ind Him, love Him, and take His hand,  
**I**n our hearts, his Spirit holds us,  
**R**eads our minds, and leads and loves us,  
**M**ighty strength breathes, through history,  
**A**ll time and space, his mystery,  
**T**imes can often be hard for us,  
**I**nside our minds, turmoil fills us,  
**O**ur faith is a shield, helps the fight,  
**N**ight will fall but his Truth holds tight.



## **"Be Still" - Contemplative Prayer**

*Valerie Fyans*

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



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

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

## **Fearless Angharad completes wing walk for charity**

Our cover picture this month features Angharad Masson celebrating her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday by completing a wing walk strapped to a biplane - all to raise money for CCLG: The Children and Young People's Cancer Association.

Angharad explains, "As many of you know I turn 30 this year and I've created a 30 before 30 Bucket List. A wing walk was number one on my list of things to do and it is now ticked off!

"As this was a bit of an adrenaline junkie activity I thought it might be a good way of raising some money for a charity close to my heart - Our Buoy Hugo's campaign, part of CCLG. This is a Special Named Fund for research into these rare yet aggressive forms of cancer to stop them taking the young lives.

"Hugo brought joy to so many lives in such a short time, but no parent should have to go through the pain of losing their child. This is why it is so important that we do everything we can to try and stop this from happening."

Through the generous support of family and friends, Angharad has raised £1020 from her intrepid adventure.

"It was so exhilarating," says Angharad, "I enjoyed every minute of it and am delighted to have raised so much. Thank you all."

## Newton Nottage Mothers' Union

*Judith Shawe*



Well, we're nearly back to normal after our August break - our first meeting of the new term will be on Tuesday, September 2nd at 2pm in All Saints Hall. We'll be welcoming our speaker, Lydia Harris, who will talk about the Flourish initiative being delivered in the schools. Everyone is welcome to the meeting, and to tea and biscuits after.

Corporate Communion is always held on the last Wednesday of every month at 11am in All Saints. This is a chance for all our members to worship together and to share fellowship at the coffee after mass. There is also a raffle and bric-a-brac table to help raise funds for MU charities. It would be great to see more people at this service.

Prayer Group will be held in the Lady Chapel in All Saints' on the second Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome to share a quiet time together. This is open to all, not just MU members.

The Thursday Group will be back in action with the CROESO tea - check the notice boards and the weekly sheet for dates. Please bring your friends and relations to enjoy the company and the scrumptious home made cakes. See you soon!

Speaking of cake, it gave MU great pleasure to supply the delicious cake that helped mark Fr Wayne's last service at All Saints. We all partook of cake and wine after mass, with presentations of cards and gifts. Farewells are always difficult and this was no different. Fr Wayne has made an impression on us all with his sense of humour and that laugh! He will be much missed by all, and particularly by us in the MU. He popped in for most meetings, making a point of greeting visitors and chatting to us. This was very much appreciated. We wish him all the very best for the future: 'God speed, Fr Wayne'.

Well done to all who have just had exam results, good luck for your future adventures. In particular our congratulations go to Alice Owen, Peter and Helen Owen's granddaughter. Alice achieved 3A\* at A level and will be studying architecture at Edinburgh University. Well done!

I look forward to seeing you at our various events coming up and there's always a welcome at our meetings too.

# Churches Together in Porthcawl

*John Berry BEM*

Churches Together in Porthcawl (CTiP) unites in pilgrimage those churches in Porthcawl which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures: and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body, and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the gospel by common witness and service in the world. *(Basis taken from the constitution).*

For more than sixty years the major events involving the churches of Porthcawl have been undertaken by the body now known as CTiP. Porthcawl Council of Churches was founded in 1963.

Churches Together Great Britain and Ireland came into being in 1996 from within the Council of Churches England Ireland and Wales. At the same time Porthcawl Council of Churches made a similar move and became Churches Together in Porthcawl (not Porthcawl Churches Together!). CTiP is affiliated to CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales).

All the Christian churches in Porthcawl 'have the right to four representatives on the full meeting of CTiP with the right to speak and vote, wherever possible one of these four representatives should be under the age of 30 years. Normally, priests and ministers in these churches shall be among their representatives' *(from the constitution).*

The 3 Anglican churches have always each had four representative places in CTiP and been very active, making a substantial contribution to the work and witness of CTiP. The past rector, Canon Philip Masson was president twice as was Fr Jonathan Durley. SADLY, there is currently no official Anglican representation (I am an Honorary Life Vice-President!).

If you're interested to know more and/or become a representative please contact me ([berryj1936@gmail.com](mailto:berryj1936@gmail.com)/07734 601203) or the Lead Secretary Mark Worrall ([markworrall90@gmail.com](mailto:markworrall90@gmail.com) / 07986 820853). I will ensure copies of the CTiP Constitution and a short history are in the back of the churches shortly.

In conclusion, my involvement in this work over the past 40 years has been some of the most fulfilling as we pray with Our Lord: That they all may be one *(John 17 v 21).*

## News from St David's

*Pat Parry*



I hope everyone has enjoyed the lovely sunny summer.

The recent news of Father Wayne leaving has saddened us all in St David's. We had hoped he would be with us for a long time as we have welcomed his ministry here. We had wine and cake following his last service here on August 17<sup>th</sup> and gave him a card signed by everyone and a cheque. He said he did not want a fuss so all was low key. Clive Edwards made a short speech. We all wish him well for the future in his new job in Cardiff.

Everything is changing as Fr Jonathan is also moving at the end of August leaving us with only one permanent priest for the whole area. I hope the Bishop will find a suitable replacement soon.

Father Malcolm Chiplin has died recently. We send our condolences to his wife, Christina and family. He was a curate in our Parish of Porthcawl in the 80s and I think it would be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priesthood this year. He was with us in the days when we had three priests in our Parish!



On a lighter note, Huw and Judy Moatt celebrated their diamond wedding in July. Congratulations to them both.

Joan Daniel's granddaughter, Rosy Jones graduated with distinction as a doctor in July. She was a student in King's London (Guys and St Thomas's hospitals). The graduation ceremony was in Southwark Cathedral. Congratulations Rosy and to her proud Grandma!

**WELL  
DONE!**

Congratulations also to all the young people who have worked hard and done well in their A levels and GCSEs. My two grandchildren have been accepted at their chosen universities. Ellie will be keeping up the tradition of studying medicine and is going to Lincoln College Oxford and Louis studying Psychology in Swansea. I wish all the young people leaving school well for the future.





## **Where have we been? Where are we now?**

### **Where are we going?**

*Barbara Birch*

The Newton-Nottage branch of the Mothers' Union was inaugurated by the Reverend William Roach on Tuesday 2nd November 1949 at 3pm in the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist.

All anniversaries are special times for remembering and looking back, but it is also a good time to examine where we are today as members of this world-wide organisation, but most importantly what we hope and feel should be the way forward for our branch in Porthcawl.

Mary Sumner, our founder, came across many of the same situations that we find in society today: "Standards are falling and the causes lie in the habit of homes. Mothers do not teach their children as they did. There is less 'church going', less household religion, less Bible reading at home. Late hours are kept by children and they are learning to make no difference between Sundays and weekdays. Parents put the responsibility of religious teaching of their children more and more on others". Sadly, how true.

But we must take heart and through prayer – the very foundation of the Mothers' Union – endeavour to further its aims, one of them being "to maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service and to encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church.

## **Would you like to join the fun?**

*Helen Murdoch*



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

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



## News from St John's

*Diane Jackson*

We've been enjoying some very good weather this summer - too hot for some of us! Unfortunately, on the day of our Fayre we had the only bad weekend for some time! A number of events due to take place were cried off because of the weather, so very special thanks to all who came and helped to achieve a wonderful £7400! Many visited the church, where our Flower Ladies had put on a lovely display highlighting 200 years of Porthcawl. Matthew did an impromptu concert on the organ too. Thanks to all who worked to make the day possible as well as for their efforts on the day.

Thanks to all who sold raffle tickets, especially the Jolly Sailor who sold about £700 worth of tickets as well as giving us a further £700+ from funds raised at their June quizzes.

Our Church has been open every Wednesday in August from 12-4pm. It is an opportunity to spend time in private reflection or to bring family/visitors who do not know the church. Prior to this, as well as the weekly clean, the church had a thorough clean by volunteers from some of our services. It is now gleaming! Thank you all!

Both Fr Jonathan and Fr Wayne have now left us for pastures new. We send them off with all God's blessings and thanks for their ministry during their time with us. We held a special coffee morning on Fr Wayne's last Friday morning with us. It was heart warming to see so many and, whilst sad, it was nevertheless a happy occasion. There was also a good congregation at his last 11.15am service when Liz Dewhurst's grandson was christened. Sadly a few days before, Liz's mother passed away. Our sincere condolences to Liz and her family.

Following the departure of Frs Jonathan and Wayne, we now have Rev Duncan as our only permanent member of the clergy until the Bishop makes further appointments. Fr Jonathan has arranged for all services to be covered until the end of September and we pray to hear soon what happens after that.

The days are now getting shorter and before we know it Harvest will be here - make the most of the lighter evenings and the good weather before it all changes.



## News from the Tower

*Rhian Mulligan*

It has been a wonderfully busy few weeks for our bellringers, with a host of visitors, events and the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Porthcawl.

In July we were delighted to welcome a young visiting ringer, Oliver from Sedbergh, Cumbria. Even though he is only in his early teens, Oliver is already a skilled ringer and was visiting Llandaff Cathedral the following evening to ring there, too. He and his mum (big *Gavin and Stacey* fans) were staying in Porthcawl to enjoy a themed tour during their holiday! They were thrilled to learn that our very own Parish is the birthplace of Ruth Jones, co-creator and star of the show!

At the end of July, another young Oliver, holidaying in Porthcawl from Dudley, joined us at Monday evening practice. At just 16, he is already a ringing instructor back home – this is an impressive achievement, made even more so by the fact that he is sight-impaired and rings entirely by sound rather than rope-sight. It was inspiring to see such enthusiasm and talent from both young visitors.

At the beginning of August, the Newton Nottage Tower hosted the monthly Branch 8-bell practice, with a strong turnout of 15 visiting ringers. The evening practice included call changes, Plain Hunt on 7 bells, Bob Triples, and Grandsire Doubles.

On 14th August, a group of visiting ringers, including our highly valued team member Andy, rang a quarter peal of Doubles in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Porthcawl.

We also welcomed a new learner, Kathryn, to the band on 11th August—a very warm welcome!

Our sincere thanks go to Yvonne John (St Catwg's, Cadoxton-juxta-Neath), her husband Andrew, daughter Rebecca, and Andy Lingard for their continued support and encouragement as many of us move on to more advanced methods.

As we move into the Autumn, we prepare to say farewell to 2 valued members of our parish community, David and Father Jonathan, who will be moving to their Neath Ministry Area at the end of September.



David has been one of our longest-serving bellringers, and his departure will leave a significant gap in our band, not just in experience but in friendship, leadership and dedication to improving the ringing skills in our group. Over the years, David has faithfully supported our practices, ringing for weddings and festive services. During his steady leadership as our previous Tower Captain, he helped to train and encourage new and experienced ringers alike. We have all valued and benefitted tremendously from his friendship and he will be deeply missed. We are looking forward to the Autumn as we continue to ring at our Monday evening practices and look forward to ringing for weddings in the next few months.

### □□ **WANTED: NEW BELL RINGERS!** □□

*Help keep our bells ringing for the future*

With so few new ringers currently in training, our team is now at a turning point and if we are to continue the tradition of bell ringing here in the parish, we urgently need new recruits!

Bell ringing is a unique and rewarding way to serve the church. It offers physical activity, mental challenge, and a strong sense of fellowship. No experience is needed - we'll teach you everything you need to know! All ages are welcome, and we offer supportive, friendly training in a relaxed setting.

If you've ever wondered what goes on in the bell tower (or you know someone who might be interested) please do get in touch:

**Contact name - Rhian Mulligan**

**Email - [newtonnottagebellringers@gmail.com](mailto:newtonnottagebellringers@gmail.com)**

Or come along on a **Monday evening 7:45pm - 9pm** to see what it's all about. If you are interested in becoming part of a centuries-old tradition that brings joy to worshippers and the wider community alike come along and have a go!



# News from Margam Abbey

*Bev Gulley*



Well, here it is – the last article from the Abbey for the Margam MA magazine. How things have changed over a few weeks, and it was a shock to hear that we were moving into Port Talbot MA. However, as we have had such change over the last few years, we will move forward in a positive frame of mind. We have made good friends within the current Margam MA, and those friendships we hope will stay strong.

August was a busy month: Congratulations to Angharad and Shaun, Charlotte and Dan, and Lisa and David all married at the Abbey, and to Tanya and Alba baptised.

There was a very moving VJ service, and we welcomed visits from Chepstow U3A, Neath Port Talbot Tempo Time Credits, Morley Medieval Society, and a Pilgrimage (and guided tour) for Eglwys Dewi Sant with Fr Dyfrig Lloyd.

The church has been open daily for visitors (our busiest time), and all of our volunteers across a range of church activities including shop, servers, fabric matters, organ, and the choir have worked so hard.

Children's Corner – Liz continues to provide weekly activities on rotation for the Children's Corner and related activities, for the benefit of our little ones. Messy Church was well-attended, the sun shone, and the faces of the children glowed. Well done to the volunteers (from outside of the Abbey) and Abbey regulars who worked so hard on this activity.

Mothers' Union – Our MU, which meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 2pm, had their summer trip to Ewenny Priory, followed by a meal. Helen and her committee had done a splendid job, and we had a wonderful time. The September meeting has a WW2 theme, with speaker Rod Hughes.

Choir – Nigel and the choir really do raise Sunday Mass, and look very smart with their new white collars (courtesy of Averil). We still need new members, and if you are interested in singing in our choir or know someone who is, rehearsal is at 9.30am each Sunday, or ring Nigel on 07825 702119.



September:

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September  
3pm – ‘Pimm’s and Hymns’ (as voted by you).  
Musical Director Nigel Wills and Organist Canon Graham Holcombe.  
Vote for your favourite hymn (English or Welsh) - fill out a voting slip at the back of the church, or text me (on 07530 421220), or message us on Facebook.

There are visits from Swansea U3A and ‘Ageing Well’. Cwm Brombil Ladies WI hold their Harvest Festival.



**Margam Abbey**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 3pm**  
*Pimm's and Hymns*  
*As Voted by you!*

Vote for your favourite English or Welsh hymn by:  
Filling out a voting slip at back of church /by Text/or messaging us on facebook

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Contact Bev Gulley 07530 421220  
Facebook: Margam Abbey Church

The preparatory work begins for the Archaeological dig behind the Abbey Drill (church) Hall, with Dr Alex Langlands, Associate Professor Swansea University, for the NPT Young Archaeologists and local schools (October-December).

We welcome Fr Michael Gable to the Abbey as Vicar from Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and Curate Rev'd Lizzy Tremble (who will live in the Vicarage in Coed Hirwaun).



Finally – we wish Fr Jonathan and David every best wish for their future in the Afon Nedd Ministry Area, and thank Fr Jonathan for everything he has done for us over the last few years.

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## Churches Galore

*Adrian Warner*

There are countless church buildings and many church philosophies. From my imaginary position ten thousand miles above planet earth I see both. I can also read of their past and so see why they developed. Numerous congregations were founded by a person or a group to fulfil a need. Disenchantment or even disagreement with what existed caused many breakaway church groups while others came to fill a niche in society; special needs or countering particular evils. So the development of churches has been restless and continuous, and probably still evolving. Views change, the importance of an idea fades, the world moves on; new situations have to be adapted to. The present, however vital it seems now, will mature, and like fruit, ripen and rot.



Descriptions of Holy Sites and buildings have filled many volumes. They are all wonderful from a mere scrap of a ruin to the grandest Sagrada. Places where people have expressed their feelings, especially hopes. Knowing that good is everywhere one of my most rewarding moments is passing the statue near the Norwegian Church and gently grasping the lower part of the torch of peace and hoping for Peace. Peace within every person, in their family, in their local society, in their country, and between countries. Peace founded on understanding and helping each other, and respect for the planet.

*Peace*

## Still, Small Voice?

*John Berry BEM*

Feb 2024: In good form I broke the rules, asked for an appointment with a doctor because of a heavy cold – it proved to be Laryngitis.

April 2024: I asked to see a doctor as my voice hadn't returned. When I suggested the Laryngitis was taking a long time the doctor was quite animated, insisting Laryngitis for two months couldn't be possible and fast-tracked me to ENT! Within 48 hours I had a camera down my throat showing a hole in my vocal cords! (FYI: To reach that part of the throat the camera starts by going up the nose – not pleasant!).

All sorts has happened since, including being told how to eat and drink properly, I confess as an octogenarian that didn't go down too well; (please forgive the pun) but from the start til now there is an insistence: do not cough, do not raise your voice, do not shout, do not talk for long periods, do not sing! The last to the relief of those around me in church!

For more than a year, when in church, I have been saying everything more or less to myself, or reading the words to myself – a new form of joining-in! Many hymns I have known without use of a book for a long time (choir boy from eight then an organist and choirmaster).

I had learned and experienced many years ago the positive use of silence and knowing the still small voice.

This experience has been interesting, and good. Once again coming to terms with words and phrases such as Laud and honour, consubstantial, co-eternal, consummation of peace (and lots more!).

Many of the hymns have been prayers during my daily life with the music as a background in my head. A constant has been the 19th century hymn by Edward Plumptre with the opening words Thy hand, O God has guided, but each verse concluding "One Church, one Faith, one Lord." This incredible hymn encompasses the Church, faith, God, mission, guidance, mercy, plan, sovereignty and victory. Very often when contemplating these words my mind moves back to an RSCM Diocesan Summer Festival in the cathedral in Essex; a number of Methodist churches had requested they join and had been welcomed. The final hymn, Thy hand, O God has guided, was my request. The combined choirs numbered more than 500, friends and relatives

more than doubled the total number creating the congregation. We had spent some time in rehearsal when the altos, tenors and basses repeat the last words of each verse while the remainder sing the word Lord. At the conclusion of the hymn the majority of the congregation, having taken a deep breath were singing 'Lord' while more than 200 Altos, Tenors and Basses sang below them One Church, One Faith, One Lord while I carefully slowed the beat. When I closed the beat the 'd' of Lord was like a clap of thunder through the cathedral. It was a back-of-the-neck tingling moment, even the bishop waited to give us his blessing!

Having spent half my life persuading choirs of all ages to get the diction right it never occurred to me to explain any of the words or phrases – I probably thought that was the vicar's job – though I have always been interested in words and vocabulary. These few months have also made me more aware of those around me in church. I'm now allowed to read in church if there is a microphone and am quite enjoying exploring some of these words and phrases – though still silently contemplating 'consubstantial'!

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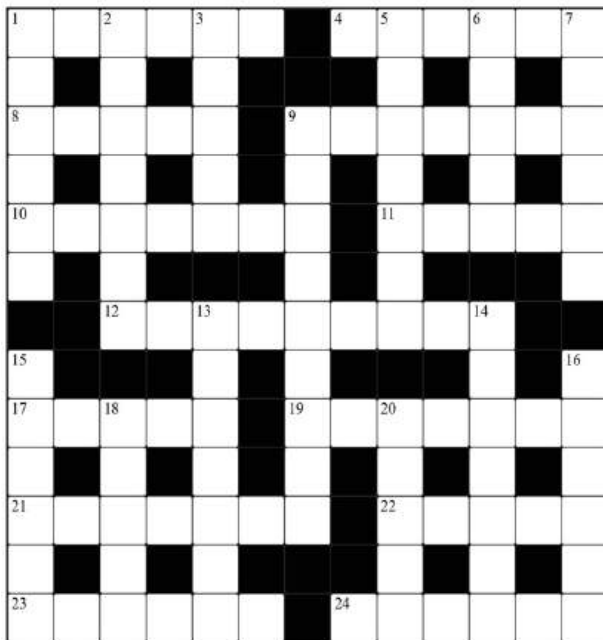
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## Quick Crossword



### Across

- 1 Drink of the Gods (6)
- 4 Game played in a court (6)
- 8 British soldier (5)
- 9 Fictional vampire (7)
- 10 Car frame (7)
- 11 Skirts worn by ballerinas (5)
- 12 Police officer (9)
- 17 Vertical part of a stair (5)
- 19 Be enough (7)
- 21 Decorated (7)
- 22 Scottish dances (5)
- 23 14-line poem (6)
- 24 Confer, impart (6)

### Down

- 1 Observe (6)
- 2 Red aperitif (7)
- 3 Bottomless gulf (5)
- 5 Group of four musicians (7)
- 6 Grown-up (5)
- 7 Funeral car (6)
- 9 Scattered (9)
- 13 Odd (7)
- 14 Apparel (7)
- 15 Fractures (6)
- 16 Playground item (6)
- 18 Contempt (5)
- 20 Smithy (5)

## Quick Crossword Answer (page25)



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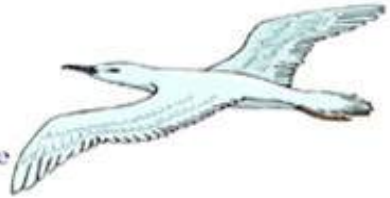
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Liberty lib'ar-ti, n.

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"



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### ***MARGAM ABBEY, Margam***

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.15

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 11.15

Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

### ***ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Newton***

Sunday: Mass at 08.30 & 11.15

Evensong at **18.00**

Tuesday & Friday: Mass at 10.30

### ***ST MARY MAGDALENE, Maudlam***

Sunday: Mass at 09.30

Wednesday: Mass at 11.00

### ***ST THEODORE'S, Kenfig Hill***

Sunday: Mass at 10.00

Family Mass 1st Sunday of the month

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Wednesday: Mass at 10.00

*For details of all other services,  
visit [www.margam.org.uk](http://www.margam.org.uk)*

## Pause for Thought

### Prayer for Encouragement

Do not look forward in fear  
to the changes of life;  
Rather look to them with full hope  
that as they arise,  
God, whose very own you are,  
will lead you safely through all things.  
And when you cannot stand it,  
God will carry you in His arms.  
Do not fear what may happen tomorrow,  
The same everlasting Father who cares for you today  
Will take care of you today and every day.  
He will either shield you from suffering  
Or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.  
Be at peace and put aside  
all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

*Francis de Sales (1567 – 1622)  
a Savoyard Catholic prelate  
who served as Bishop of Geneva  
and is a Saint of the Catholic Church.*

## Margam Ministry Area

### Clergy:

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Porthcawl Churches Office [PorthcawlChurches@gmail.com](mailto:PorthcawlChurches@gmail.com)  
The Rev'd Dr Duncan Walker 01656 740500 [revduncan.walker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revduncan.walker@hotmail.co.uk)  
The Rev'd Claire Stowell 07813 767956 [stowellclaire@gmail.com](mailto:stowellclaire@gmail.com)

### Reader:

Mrs Grace Wylde 07966 083196 [gwylde16@outlook.com](mailto:gwylde16@outlook.com)

### Chair of the Ministry Area Council:

### Area Wardens:

Mr Gareth Baker 07791 367918 [gareth.baker@acuitylaw.com](mailto:gareth.baker@acuitylaw.com)  
Mr David-Lloyd Jones 07747 151205 [davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com)

### Treasurer:

Dr Paul Smart 01656 788086 [pmsmart@aol.com](mailto:pmsmart@aol.com)

### Safeguarding Officer:

Mr Dave Xerri 07850 129079 [dave@xerri.wales](mailto:dave@xerri.wales)

### Church subwardens:

<b>All Saints, Porthcawl</b>	Mrs Helen Owen	01656 785763
	Mrs Judith Shawe	01656 786446
<b>Saint John the Baptist, Newton</b>	Mr Gareth Lewis	07552 733857
	Miss Denver Whale	01656 782573
<b>Saint David, Nottage</b>	Mr Clive Edwards	01656 784698
	Mrs Catherine Powell	07875 834740
<b>Saint Mary Magdalene, Maudlam</b>	Mr John Roberts	07851 122804
	Mrs Eileen Edwards	07530 989433
<b>Saint James, Pyle</b>	Mrs Vanessa Evans	07817 787544
	Mrs Dawn Edwards	07419 822913
<b>Saint Theodore, Kenfig Hill</b>	Mrs Margaret Phillips	07748 678827
	Mrs Annette Evans	

### Margam Abbey

### Hall Bookings

Parish Hall, Pyle	Sue Roberts	01656 741030
All Saints, Porthcawl	<a href="mailto:porthcawllallsaintshall@gmail.com">porthcawllallsaintshall@gmail.com</a>	
St David, Nottage	Clive Edwards	01656784698
St John the Baptist, Newton	Bev Smithern	07968 648966
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