

News and Events

Confirmation.

The Ministry Area is looking to organise a Confirmation Service with the Bishop. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in being Confirmed, or if you would like further information about Confirmation, please speak to one of the clergy.

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Y Cymun Bendigaid / Welsh Eucharist

Gwasanaeth 11.00am 4th **Corffennaf/July** 2026,
Service 11.00am 4th July 2026 at **Llanfabon Church, Nelson**

Y Cymun Bendigaid / Welsh Eucharist

Awst/August Dim Gwasanaeth/No Service



St. John's Church Nelson

Saturday 11th July 1.30pm – 3.00pm, **Grand Jumble Sale.**
Raffle & Tombola, Refreshments, Bargains for all.
Clothes, Shoes, Bags, Books, Bric a brac, Toys.
All are welcome!!!

On Sunday, 19th July at 4.00pm St. Martin's Church, Caerphilly our Ministry Area Wardens are being licenced. All members of the Ministry Area are welcome to attend the service to show support for the wardens.

The first meeting of the new Ministry Area Council will take place on Wednesday 29th July at 6.30pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Ystrad Mynach.

Sue Rivers

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area Key Contacts:

Ministry Area Leader – Rev'd Rajiv Sidhu.

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Ministry Area Lay Chair - Mrs. Sue Rivers. Tel: 07910 524816

Clergy

Fr Gary Powell 01443 832119

Fr Gareth Coombes 01443 813246

Fr Darren Lynch 01685 552502

Fr Keith Hemmings 01443 830662

Fr Ashley Hunt 01495 228445

Lay Reader

Mrs Carolyn Corbin 07983 677360

Ministry Area Wardens

Miss Pam Morgan. 07952 101179

Mrs Angela Treherne. 07925 817464

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Our Ministry Area comprises of the following districts:

Ystrad Mynach — Holy Trinity
Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog, Nelson & Llanfabon – St. John,
St. Matthias, St. Mabon
Gelligaer & Gilfach — St. Catwg, St. Margaret
Pontlottyn — St. Tyfaelog, St. Aidan, St. Mary & St. Andrew
Bargoed, Deri & Brithdir — St. Gwladys

*** James, Apostle** Saturday 25th July

Saint James the Apostle was one of Jesus' closest disciples. The first of the Apostles to suffer martyrdom, he still guides thousands of pilgrims along the path that bears his name.

The brother of the Apostle John and, with him, the first to follow Jesus, James was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. According to the New Testament, he was the second of the apostles to die, after Judas Iscariot, and the first to be martyred.



The month of July.

July is named after Julius Caesar! The Roman politician and general was born in 100 BC in the Roman month of Quintilis

The Roman calendar originally had 10 months and began in March, and the months Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, and December corresponded to the Latin words for the numbers five to ten. The months of January and February were added later, after a calendar reform.

Quintilis was renamed Iulius (July) by the Roman Senate in 44 BC – the year Caesar was assassinated

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area, registered as charitable incorporated organisation in England & Wales. Registered Charity No. 1208522

Principal Office: The Vicarage, Cedar Way, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7DR.

Annwyl Cyfeillion/Dear Friends

It's holiday time, and no doubt we will be hearing of queues at seaports and airports. Despite all the headaches, the British have always been great travellers, and we live in what we call a mobile society. Once you start reading our Holy Scriptures you realise quickly that the ancient peoples were forever on the road. Often their journeys were necessitated by famine or personal safety not unlike the migration of peoples today.

Some 400 years before the birth of Christ, famine in Judah prompted a man, Elimelech, to take his family to a neighbouring country, Moab. He and his wife Naomi established their family there and their two sons married Moabite women, one of whom was called Ruth. The Book of Ruth in the Old Testament is one of the most beautiful and romantic texts.

Tragedy hits Naomi's family as her husband and her two sons die. Without a male protector Naomi was rendered very vulnerable in that ancient society. Sensibly she decides to return home to Judah where she would expect her own kith and kin to receive and at least protect her. She tells her Moabite daughters-in-law to remain in their own country where they would stand a better chance of remarrying. One daughter-in-law stays but Ruth is adamant that she will stay with Naomi and at chapter 1.16 her words of love, commitment and trust have echoed down the millennia: "Do not urge me to go back and desert you. Where you go, I shall go, and where you stay, I shall stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I shall die"

Ruth travels with Naomi to the Holy Land and by doing so she takes a huge risk. She leaves what is familiar, her language, culture and her home. Both women have suffered great losses, but Ruth is prepared to travel to the unknown and sacrifice any hope of a secure future in her homeland. She trusts Naomi's love for her and perhaps more importantly, she trusts her own love for Naomi.

The story ends well for Ruth. Once in Judah she goes to work in the fields of the rich landowner, Boaz, and to cut the story short, he is attracted to her, and being honourable, he marries her. So Ruth has a secure future, a rich husband and subsequently a son, Obed, who became grandfather to David, the founder of the royal line. In his genealogy of Christ, St Matthew in chapter 1 of his Gospel at verse 5, there appears 'Boaz of Obed (his mother was Ruth)'. Matthew has Ruth as one of Our Lord's ancestors.

There is a painting by Julius Von Carolsfeld (1828) entitled 'Ruth in Boaz's field'. Ruth is shown holding the gleanings she has collected, and the painter has accentuated her strength of character. She has poise and grace and most importantly determination.

Ruth placed her trust in her relationship with Naomi. 'Trust' is in short supply these days in a world of Fake News. As a Dutch proverb has it "Trust arrives on foot but leaves on horseback". Mistrust has become our default setting, especially faced with the criminals using all sorts of media to inveigle us into emptying our bank accounts in their favour. But we need to trust if we are to flourish and the odd thing is that God trusts us. There is an old joke of Jesus arriving in heaven and is met by God with "How was your mission?" Jesus: "I left it in the hands of eleven blokes". "Oh" says God "and if that fails what's your other plan?" Jesus: "There is no other plan". Our Lord has entrusted us with His church in Taff Rhymney. As Teresa of Avila's prayer has it "Christ has no body now on earth but yours".

The story of Ruth inspires us to trust in our relationship with God. We need to trust Him and to trust one another and ourselves. Perhaps it is a matter of us shy Christians to take ourselves more seriously, trusting in God's love and our love for Him.

Pob bendith

Fr Lindsay



Ruth in Boaz's Field by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1828)