

## Church News / Notices.

### NEW MINISTRY AREA LEADER

*The Licencing of the Revd Rajiv Sidhu as our new Ministry Area Leader and the Licencing of Revd Gary Powell as Area Dean of the Deanery of Eglwysilan will take place at 4pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 in Llandaff Cathedral. There will be a warm welcome to all who can join us to welcome our new Ministry Area Leader and new Area Dean.*

### Lent Group Meetings

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent our Lent Groups will meet this week:

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm S. Margaret's Church

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am S. Catwg's Church

All are welcome.

*The Ministry Area Council*

*will meet next on*

*Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026*

*at 7.00pm in S. Matthias Church, Treharris.*

### Church groups and Community groups – what's on!

#### Friends of Gilfach

Friends of Gilfach Coffee Morning on Tuesday 10th March at 10.30am in St. Margaret's Church Gilfach.

#### Friends of Gilfach

#### Community Dance Group

Meet each Monday at 10.30am at St. Margaret's Church. **All are welcome!!**

#### Bargoed Community Choir.

We meet each Thursday, during term time, at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach 10.00 to 11.30 am. **All are welcome!!**

*Everyone is welcome to join us for any of our groups and social meetings.*



Scan to view our website.

**DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:**

[www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk](http://www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk) (scan the QR Code)

Parish of Gelligaer Facebook page

[llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/](http://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/) [churchinwales.org.uk](http://churchinwales.org.uk)

St. Catwg

District of Gelligaer

St. Margaret

**SUNDAY 8th March 2026 –  
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**



*We are a welcoming Christian community serving the people of the District of Gelligaer.*

Priest: Fr Gary Powell

Reader: Carolyn Corbin

Dear friends,

I hope that you are all well and that you have all had a good week. We extend a warm welcome to everyone. Please join us for worship. Please keep this newsletter and see our parish website and parish Facebook page which for information of our weekly services and forthcoming events and devotional aids.

This week we continue our Lenten Pilgrimage towards Calvary and the glory of the Resurrection at Easter. In our Gospel reading today Jesus has reached the city of Sychar where he has a beautiful encounter with a Samaritan woman. Jesus reveals himself as the giver of the Water of Life, the giver of new life. We first received this living Water at our Baptism when our new life with Christ began. We give thanks that he walks alongside us, loving us, encouraging us as we journey with him toward the Cross and the Resurrection to eternal life, rejoicing that In Word and Sacrament he showers us with the living water of his love, bringing purpose and meaning to our lives.

Your friend and priest, Fr Gary Powell

### Worship Through the Week.

#### **S. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer:**

Sunday 11.00am Sung Eucharist  
Thursday 10.00am Holy Eucharist

#### **S. Margaret's Church, Gilfach:**

Sunday 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
Wednesday 10.00am Holy Eucharist

*Everyone is welcome to join us for worship during the week and our social groups and meetings. Further details on the back of this newsletter.*

Priest: Fr Gary Powell, The Rectory, Church Road, Gelligaer, CF82 8FW

Telephone: 01443 832119 / Email: [GaryPowell@cinw.org.uk](mailto:GaryPowell@cinw.org.uk)

Please do not hesitate to contact Fr Gary in the event of sickness or other need.

For enquires regarding Baptisms and weddings or spiritual guidance please contact Fr Gary. We are here to help.

*'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.

## *The Liturgy of the Word.*

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Readings. Psalm and Gospel for Today.**

#### **A reading from the book of Exodus.**

17. 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin, the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So, Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?' This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 95.**

**Response: O come let us worship and bow down before the God, our Maker.**

O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! (R)

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land,  
which his hands have formed. (R)

O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand. (R)

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,  
when your ancestors tested me,  
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. (R)

For forty years I loathed that generation  
and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,  
and they do not regard my ways.'  
Therefore, in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest." (R)

#### **A reading from the letter of S. Paul to the Romans**

5. 1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more

surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

"Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty" says the Lord. "The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

#### **Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John.**

4. 5-42

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ), 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us. Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**