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TÂF RHYMNI
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MINISTRY AREA

District of Gelligaer Magazine:

Churches of
St. Catwg's, Gelligaer
St. Margaret's, Gilfach

*A welcoming Christian
community serving the people
of the district of Gelligaer.*

The season of Easter

What's in this edition!

Greetings from the Rectory.

Reader Writes.

District News/Messages.

Mothers' Union.

*Short Quiz on the
Book of Joshua.*

For the Children!

and More.....

Lord Jesus,
you came as
a humble servant
but were proclaimed
as King.

Even so, willingly you
became broken for us
and, through your death
and resurrection,
Love became
triumphant!

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Who's Who (*District of Gelligaer*)

<u>Priest</u>	<u>Reader</u>
Fr. Gary Powell	Mrs. Carolyn Corbin
Tel: 01443 832119	Tel: 07983 677360
Email: GaryPowell@cinw.org.uk	Email: carolyncorbin63@aol.com

For general enquiries please do not hesitate contact Rev. Gary Powell or one of our wardens.

Ministry Area Leader's Wardens:

Vicar's Warden: Sue Hankins. Tel: 01443 820754
 People's Warden: Louise Lynch. Tel: 01685 552502

District Sub-Wardens:

Vicar's Warden: Christine Thorpe. Tel: 01443 837482
 People's Warden: Huw Thomas. Tel: 01443 836613

Church Wardens

St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer:

Vicar's Warden: Cheryl Pugh Tel: 01443 837961
 People's Warden: Linda Hall Tel:

St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach:

Vicar's Warden: Enid Mayne, Tel: 01443 268988
 People's Warden: Jeanette Jones, Tel: 01443 838908

Gift Aid Secretary Huw Thomas. Tel: 01443 836613

Safeguarding Officer Fr Gary Powell Tel: 01443 832119

District Treasurer: Jenn East Tel: 01443 839385

Magazine : Chris Corbin, Tel: 01443 833452
 Email: chriscorbin1961@gmail.com

Website: www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk

Facebook Page: <https://facebook.com/GelligaerParish/>

Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

On the last day of March as we celebrated the great Feast of Easter. The solemnity of Lent gave way to the joy of and colour of Easter. The celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ stands at the very centre of our worshipping life and our faith, bringing as it does the promise of new life and hope for the future. As the risen Jesus springs up to new life he brings the reassurance that nothing can now keep us from the love of Christ. Our relationship with him has been renewed and is now unbreakable. What wonderful news for a world living under the threat and shadow of war and the uncertainties of economic hardship, illness or bereavement. Our Easter celebrations were a wonderful reminder to us that we live in communion with the God who loves us and who gave his Son to the cross for us and also in communion with one another. We walk together, supporting and encouraging one another with Christ out our head with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.



I am very grateful to all who gave their time to help clean and decorate our Churches for Easter, both Churches looked magnificent, and we enjoyed good celebrations as the family of God

here in Gelligaer and Gilfach.

As we move forward I keep you all in my prayers. I am trying to visit our friends who are now unable to come to Church but if you know of someone in urgent need of a visit please let me know.

I wish you all a very holy and blessed Easter season.

***ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN HE
IS RISEN INDEED ALLELUIA!***

**Every blessing from your friend and Priest,
Fr Gary.**

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“He came to Save others, and not to be made a king himself in the sense in which they understood him.” —Charles Spurgeon

Reader Writes.

A few years ago I read the book “Thirteen Weddings” and when I picked it up again a few weeks ago I thought I would read it once again. The book tells of Bronte, a young lady who works as a picture editor for a magazine and in due course becomes a part time wedding photographer on the weekends which entails her travelling to various places and meeting many people. The story also tells of how Bronte has to make decisions regarding her personal life including does she stay in the UK or does she return to her homeland of Australia and of course there is the usual dilemma of two men being in love with her and she has to decide what to do.



As the story unravels, it becomes apparent that Bronte had an unhappy childhood and parents that did not have a happy marriage. At the end of the story, Bronte returns to Australia to see her mother and her father who is suffering with alzheimer's and living in a home. He no longer recognises his only daughter but he does remember how to play the piano. Bronte has so many questions to ask him including did he love her? Through tracking down the parish priest from her childhood, her questions are answered which allows her to, not only live her life with a happy heart but to understand and forgive her parents.

This story may not echo many of our lives but it is a reminder that as individuals, we do not know what others have been through or are going through so we should always be aware of our thoughts, words and actions. Having just celebrated Holy Week with the sadness and grief of Maundy Thursday and the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday we have the love and compassion of Jesus, who died that we may be forgiven and as Bronte found it in her heart to forgive her parents, we too, should find it in our hearts to be forgiving.

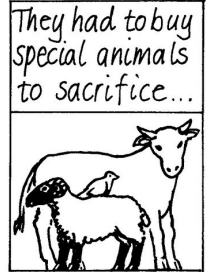
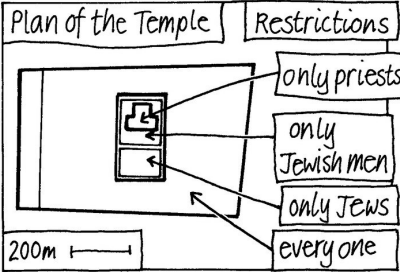
Carolyn

Bible Bite

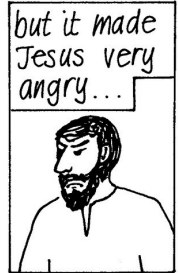
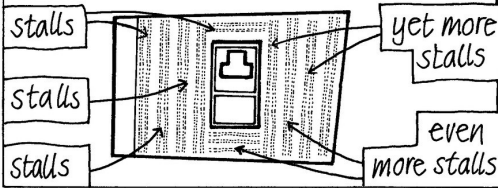
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 21:12-16, Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19:45-48

When Jesus reached Jerusalem he went to the Temple, built as a place where everyone could worship God, but with restrictions...



and the stalls filled the only place that non-Jews could come to worship God



so he drove them out



Fooling Around

I was about six when I began to enjoy April Fool's Day. My older brother was very clever at appropriate hoaxes, not only deceiving me but also mum and dad. On the whole my childish efforts were encouraged. The day was full of laughs, even at school, where the teachers would try to trick us and all day long no one quite believed anything they were told. So it went on, year after year, though I think it all seems as a bit unsophisticated for the modern generation.

You couldn't say that, though, about probably the most famous April Fool's effort of all time. In the 1960's BBC TV broadcast a feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. Even those of us who bought our spaghetti in the supermarket from the pasta shelves began to wonder if we'd been wrong. Italian farmers explained their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants was carefully filmed, from planting to reaping. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Auntie playing games. Whatever next!

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from March 25th to January 1st. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the spring equinox, March 25th. Either way a touch of hilarity at the end of Lent does not seem amiss. Go to Greece, where the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated with fireworks and parties to see how it might work.

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Richard of Chichester - more clearly, dearly and nearly

Ever wonder where the prayer ... 'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day' comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of

marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

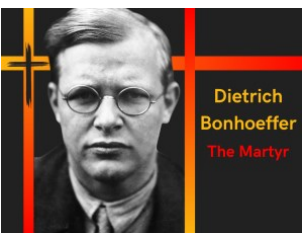
In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full: "Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day."

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Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and martyr



Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin university, and so the family moved to Berlin.

Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tubingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but he returned to Germany. He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenberg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: "This is the end - for me, the beginning of life."

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his Letters and Papers from Prison, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

Notices from our Churches and Community

100 Club Winners!

February 2024

4th	45	Jenn East	St. Margaret's Church
11th	25	Lynne Thomas	St. Margaret's Church
18st	75	Linda Bartlett	St. Margaret's Church
25th	5	Gareth Rees	St. Margaret's Church

Cawl Evening 2024



This year, we celebrated St David's Day, a little late, on Wednesday 6th March, , more than fifty people attended our Cawl evening and everyone enjoyed the event very much.

The Cawl was delicious and very healthy as we had over our five a day requirement in one sitting. Afterwards there were Welsh cakes and slices of Bara Brith which had been made by members of the social committee.

Father Gary had compiled a quiz based on Wales and the winning table were the Super Six, the One Outers came second (named as we were one year out in quite a few answers) and third were the Famous Five. The evening ended with a raffle Draw.

Many thanks to all who helped to prepare the food and to organise the evening, but a special thanks to June and Pete who once again did all the shopping etc,. Thanks to Father Gary for compiling the quiz, and to Audrey, Jeanette and Aiden for helping with the raffle. Finally thanks to everyone who attended the cawl evening thus making it another successful event.

The next important date for your diary is Wednesday 15th May, our annual quiz evening.

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Holy Week

From Monday through to Easter Sunday, the Parish shared the services of Holy Week. The services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening took the form of Compline including a meditation on various themes from the Gospel of Luke.

The services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday were as Father Gary explained 'one act of worship spread over three days'. Maundy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus and during this service there were many moving acts including the washing of feet, the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, carried in solemn procession to the flower-bedecked Altar of Repose, where it remained until the communion service on Good Friday, the Stripping of the Altar and finally, there was the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by members of the congregation during the night, just as the disciples stayed with the Lord during His agony on the Mount of Olives before his betrayal by Judas.

The Parish had two services on Good Friday - the first of the services was held at St. Margaret's church where the congregation were taken on the painful journey of the Stations of the Cross through the eyes of Mary with the hymns being sung unaccompanied. The evening service - The Veneration of the Cross was held in St. Catwg's church with the congregation having the opportunity to stand or kneel at the foot of the cross.

The services on Easter Sunday saw the Paschal Candles being lit, the congregations to renewing their baptismal vows and being sprinkled with Holy water.

Thank you Fr. Gary for all the services, and to those who joined us on our journey during Holy Week - each service made both Holy Week and Easter more meaningful and thought provoking.



May's Magazine 2024

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday
22nd March, for inclusion in the May's edition.

Many Thanks Chris (email: chriscorbin1961@gmail.com)

God in the Arts

Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess begins a year-long series looking at great works of Christian music.

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’:

Allegri’s Miserere

In the 1980s thanks to Godfrey Smith, a columnist for The Sunday Times, there was a series of letters about particular pieces of music that have the TQ – the Tingle Quotient. As we listen, the music sends a shiver of excitement up and down the spine and opens out for us a new world of beauty and wonder.

The letters started with a novelist writing about his travels across the Sahara. In moments of desolation and loneliness he would think of music that meant the most to him and which he thought he might never hear again. Then a schoolmaster in Rochester wrote of a production of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ where the funeral scene virtually brought the house down. Juliet entered a darkened school hall, lit only by glimmering candles with music sung that brought the audience to tears.

For both novelist and schoolmaster, the work that had that TQ factor was Allegri’s Miserere. It provided consolation in the cold desert nights, and it created the impact in that production of Shakespeare’s play. Other readers supplied their list of TQ music, and always the Miserere was in the top five. I suspect that this music strikes the TQ for many of you as well. Why is it, I wonder? We can provide an answer by talking of the contrast between the plainsong sung by the men’s voices and the responses from the choir that lead to that small group of solo voices where the treble or soprano reaches a high C and comes down the scale to the cadence. We can point to the intriguing history of this work for the setting by Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652) was the exclusive possession of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. To copy the music was a crime punishable by excommunication.

In spite of this, a 14-year-old Mozart heard the piece in 1770 and wrote it down from memory, paying another visit to verify some of the notes he had copied down. The Emperor, Leopold 1, the king of Portugal, persuaded the Pope to grant him a copy. When it was performed in his own imperial chapel, he was disappointed. He even thought the Pope had palmed him off with an inferior work. Then he realised that the beauty and magic of the music lay in its being sung in the Sistine Chapel where the plainsong and the high C cadences could ring out among the pillars and arches of that great building.

The Miserere, or Psalm 51 is the heart-felt cry of the Church for mercy. As one of the penitential psalms, it is a very personal expression of sorrow for sin and a moving appeal to God for mercy and restoration.

In Allegri's setting that high C is reached as the individual acknowledges his sin, and again as he cries for mercy and finally as he proclaims that his tongue will sing of God's grace and righteousness. A single voice in the music scales the heights of heaven to represent all of us as we turn to God with that same awareness of sin, that same plea for mercy, and that same affirmation that we will then turn to God with thanksgiving and the offering of a humble and contrite heart.

And so with the psalmist and with Allegri, we can pray 'Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness.'

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God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Science and Society:

How Can We Approach New Ethical Issues?

Science tells us how the world works, and technology offers applications of that knowledge, but neither can tell us what we ought to do. All scientific discoveries or new technologies can be used to either help or harm others. For example, a smartphone can be used to stay in touch but also enables bullying.

It is important to get past our initial reactions: the 'yuk!' or 'wow!' These feelings may well change once we learn more about the science and other factors behind a new development.

Ethical thinking can be divided into three main categories. The consequentialist approach is demonstrated in Proverbs, when Wisdom calls young men to consider the outcome of their actions. Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialist ethic that tries to maximise the greatest good for the largest number of people affected, but unchecked it leaves minorities out in the cold.

Duty or law-based ethics start with intrinsic values, asking what is the correct course of action, or our duty? These values might be God-given, such as the Ten Commandments, or worked out by human reason. It is possible, however, to do harm while obeying the law, especially if someone asks 'What can I get away with?' Also, what

happens when rules collide? For example, who should be treated first when resources are limited?

Virtue ethics are about building character, growing in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit. There are plenty of biblical principles to guide virtuous living, such as the idea that we are ‘made in the image of God’ which supports the value of every human life (e.g., Genesis 1:26–27, Genesis 9:6, James 3:9–10), but the right decision can vary depending on circumstances. So how can we make ethical decisions about new technologies? **The five Cs** bring together a number of different types of ethical thinking into a helpful framework for decision-making.

- **Clarify** the facts and key questions.
- **Consider** our choices: what could we achieve?
- **Constraints:** External - what must we do? ; Internal - how should we behave?
- **Compare** the pros and cons of each approach.
- **Choose** what is best, with all parties in mind.

Finally, we have to recognise that the information available to us will change over time, our knowledge of God and His Word will keep growing, and we cannot avoid making mistakes - so our ethical decisions will need to be revisited and revised from time to time.

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Lady Day or The Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - He was born to die, and thus fulfil God’s purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel’s gracious strength and Mary’s humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary’s response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.



Mothers' Union



Another month gone and the year seems to be flying by. Our meetings, coffee mornings and quiz afternoons are still going strong. Our meeting this month saw Jenn and Lynne read from the book Jenn bought from Mothers' Union retail shop. It was lovely and a different take on the women in Christ's life. It was good to discuss our thoughts on it and different ideas of them. We are hoping they will do another couple of them in future meetings.

I have had requests to order this book but at present they are out of stock. I called to see Marion last week and she is doing okay. She has been in Ty Clyd for respite a few times and loved it. I asked her daughter to let us know the next time she is there so we can visit her. It would be easier as we aren't really sure when she is at her daughter's house. She sends her love to everyone. This afternoon I am hoping to visit Olive.

I have had a report of the last Deanery meeting. They are looking for a new Deanery leader so want nominations. There will be a Deanery Colour Fayre in Twyn Community Centre Caerphilly on Saturday 29th June. Our colours are black and white which is quite good as I still have black and white paper etc. from the last one. We can be there for 9.00 a.m. and runs until 2.00 p.m. The Fayre starts at 10. a.m. and there will be refreshments available. All profits will go to AFIA caravan which we always like to support. I will discuss this at our next meeting. I will read the minutes of the meeting out at our next meeting on 2nd April with dates for this year. Although we have informed them of our new members it seems that they are still not getting the Connect and Prayer Diaries. I can only apologise for this but we have given all the information required and it still isn't happening. The open week for the caravan this year is from July 9th to 12th. 139 people were able to have a holiday there last year which is fantastic. I know we all like to support this local scheme.

At the time of sending this I will be sending you all my good wishes for a healthy and Happy Easter. I realise that this will be over by the time you receive the magazine, but I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting (except for the few lucky ones who will be on holiday). I will collect the money pots for Lent and be able to count some of it for June to bank when she is back from her break. Another good idea for funds for the caravan.

Love and God Bless. **Kath**

Vincent Ferrer, Dominican who opposed a Pope

Leaving England to live in Spain was popular long before the TV show ‘Location Location Location’ was ever invented. Back in 1350 Vincent Ferrer’s parents had left England to settle in Valencia, where their son Vincent was born and grew up. In 1367, when he was 17, Vincent felt called by God to become a monk, and joined the Dominican order. The reason for his ‘call’ was soon clear: Vincent had outstanding gifts as both a philosopher and as a preacher.



What is preaching? If you think of it as a way of bringing the reality of God and the love of Jesus Christ to people, then that is a good summary of what Vincent did for all who heard him. In the great tradition of John the Baptist, he called them to come to God by way of repentance for their sins. In the tradition of St Peter, the apostle to the Jews, Vincent was also heard by many Jews in Valencia. A great number of these listened to his preaching and came to believe that Jesus was indeed their promised Messiah. (One of these Jewish converts went on to become bishop of Cartagena.)

Vincent’s preaching met with extraordinary success in France, Spain and Italy. He seems to have been an evangelist at heart, for his topics were sin, the Last Judgement, and Eternity. In Spain such large numbers of both Gentiles and Jews wanted to hear him that no church was big enough to contain the crowds: and so Vincent preached in the open air.

When in 1414 the Council of Constance attempted to end the Great Schism (there were two Popes fighting for the same job), Vincent persuaded Ferdinand, King of Aragon, to withdraw his allegiance to the doubtful contender, Pope Benedict. The end result was that Benedict’s credibility collapsed, and the schism was ultimately healed. Vincent went back to preaching and spent his last three years in Normandy and Brittany, where he died at Vannes in 1419, worn out by all his labours.

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Anselm, the man who proved there is a God

Anselm is a good saint to remember next time someone asks you to prove that there is a God. His brilliant and original Proslogion, written 1077-8, sets out the ‘ontological’ proof for God’s existence. Nearly ten

centuries later, it is still studied by theological students as one of the great philosophical ‘proofs’ of God’s existence.

Anselm was born at Aosta in 1033, the son of a spendthrift Lombard nobleman, whom Anselm detested. In time he decided to become a Benedictine monk, and so joined Lanfranc’s famous monastery at Bec (c. 1060). He became prior, then abbot. He was loved by his monks, appreciated for his sensitivity and intuitiveness. He remained friends also with Lanfranc, who had gone on to be Archbishop of Canterbury. After Lanfranc’s death, Anselm reluctantly agreed to accept the job.

Archbishops did not have press offices in those days, but Anselm made his views on Church-versus-King known all the same, and they did not please the king. William Rufus exiled him in 1097 and King Henry I exiled him in 1103. Anselm was utterly committed to what he saw as the cause of God and the Church, and therefore had no time for temporal politics. Peace between archbishop and monarch was not achieved until 1106.



Anselm spent the rest of his life in England. His theological stance of ‘Faith seeking understanding’ and ‘the mind at faith’s service’ were the keys to his life and teaching.

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Prayer for April 2024

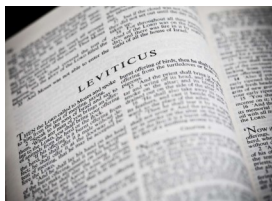
based on John 20: 19-end

*Almighty Father,
In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh
the new life Jesus’ resurrection makes possible.
Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection
peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.
Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.
We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.*

By Daphne Kitching

What's the Big Idea? –

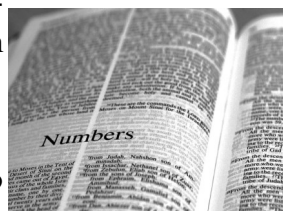
An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Leviticus & Numbers



These books are concerned with Israel's wandering in the desert, on their journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan.

Leviticus focuses on the regulations about worship, ceremonial cleanness, moral laws and holy days. The key theme is that of holiness, as every detail of our lives is affected by the presence of a holy God. The aim of the sacrifices, feast and Sabbaths was to enable the people to enter God's presence. We should see the instructions and practices in Leviticus as pointing to Jesus. He totally fulfilled the law through the sacrifice of His life, as Easter reminds us. He demonstrated the love and holiness of God, so that we can share His life: 'Be holy, because I am holy' (1 Peter 1:16, cf Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7).

The book of Numbers tells the story of Israel's journey through the wilderness. The people were coming to terms with their identity as God's people and the call to serve Him. They didn't always respond with faith, gratitude and obedience, but with unbelief, ingratitude and rebellion. As a result of their refusal to enter Canaan (ch 14), they were condemned to spend the rest of their lives in the desert. However, God in His grace allowed their children to enter the Promised Land. The book reminds us that the Church is called to be a community that honours God, learns how to deal with sin in ourselves and others, and lives out love and justice in daily life.



'The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give

Short quiz on the Book Joshua.

*How well do you in the book of numbers? Try this quiz!
(answers on page 23)*

- Whom did Joshua succeed as leader of Israel?
 - Jacob
 - Aaron
 - Moses
- What was the name of Joshua's father?
 - Carmi
 - Nun
 - Eleazar
- To what city did Joshua send two men to spy upon?
 - Jericho
 - Ai
 - Gilgal
- What was the name of the woman who hid the spies Joshua sent?
 - Rachel
 - Rahab
 - Rebekah
- How many stones did the Israelites take from the dry river bed of the Jordan?
 - 7
 - 12
 - 40
- Once the Israelites had entered the Promised Land, what happened in the days after they had celebrated the Passover?
 - God stopped providing manna
 - Joshua apportioned land to each tribe
 - The Amorites attacked them
- What did the captain of the Lord's host command Joshua to do?
 - Gather his army against Jericho
 - Build an altar to the Lord
 - Take off his sandals
- How many priests were chosen to carry the rams' horns as they marched round Jericho?
 - 3
 - 7
 - 70
- What was the name of the man who violated God's command not to plunder anything from Jericho?
 - Phinehas
 - Zabdi
 - Achan
- The Gibeonites tricked Joshua into making a covenant of peace, but as what did he make them serve the Israelites?
 - Woodcutters and water-carriers
 - Brick makers and messengers
 - Stone-carriers and armour-bearers
- What natural phenomenon helped Joshua defeat the Amorites?
 - Sandstorm
 - Earthquake
 - Hailstones
- What was the only tribe not to receive an inheritance?
 - Levi
 - Reuben
 - Manasseh
- How old was Caleb (one of the original 12 spies) when he was given Hebron as his inheritance?
 - 40
 - 70
 - 85
- What tribe was given a portion of Judah as their inheritance?
 - Ephraim
 - Simeon
 - Benjamin
- For what sin were the cities of refuge created?
 - Accidental murder
 - Theft
 - Adultery

Services and Holy Days

Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will be held twice weekly in both our Churches:

*St. Margaret's each Sunday at 9.30am and each Wednesday at 10.00am.
St. Catwg's each Sunday at 11.00am and each Thursday at 10.00am.*

<i>Date.</i>		<i>Services and Holy Days - April 2024</i>
<i>7th</i>		THE SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER
<i>8th</i>		The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
<i>14th</i>		THE THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER
<i>21st</i>		THE FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER
<i>28th</i>		THE FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Bargoed Community Choir.

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

Community Dance Group

The dance group will meet each Monday at 10.30am at St. Margaret's Church. *All are welcome!!*



BRINGING FAITH TO YOUR INBOX

Sign up to Llandaff Matters and receive inspirational stories of faith in action from across the diocese. Use the following link:

<https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/>

then sign up to the mailing list, found half way down the page.

looking forward through Lent to Palm Sunday and Easter ...

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in in corruption... It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. – **1 Corinthians 15:42-4**

On Good Friday, the most sacred day of the year, when God’s justice and mercy are intertwined, I take heart for myself and the whole human race by meditating on this text: “There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people”. [1 Timothy 2:5) – **Archbishop John Sentamu**

This precious Lamb of God gave up his precious fleece for us. – **Christopher Nesse**

The cross of Jesus Christ is a two-way street; we have been brought to God and God has been brought to us. – **Donald Grey Barnhouse**

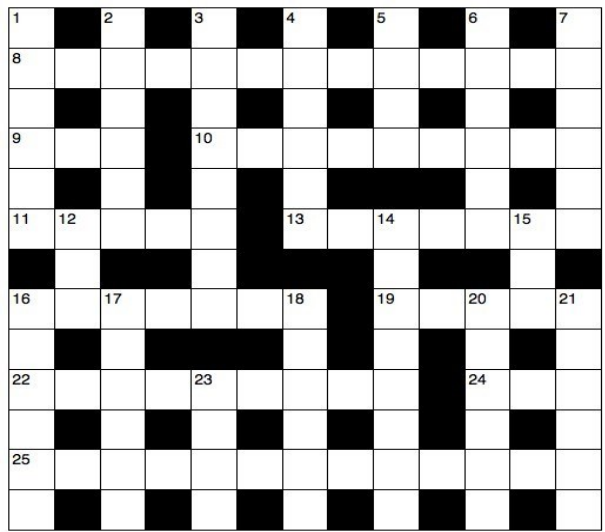
Sudoku Challenge

2			6				3	
		1			2	5	4	7
	4			5				
4	9			8	3		5	
			2	1	4			
	2		5	6			7	8
				7			9	
9	1	4	8			7		
	7				6			4

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Solution can be found on page 39

April's Crossword



Challenge

ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —'
(Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives
(Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that
his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)

- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

Crossword solution - Page 39

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Quiz on the Book of Joshua.

Answers:

Question 1: c. Moses

Question 8: b. 7 (6:6)

Question 2: b. Nun (1:2)

Question 9: c. Achen (7:18)

Question 3: a. Jericho (2:1)

Question 10: a. Woodcutters and water-carriers (9:27)

Question 4: b. Rahab (2:4)

Question 11: c. Hailstones (10:11)

Question 5: b. 12 (4:9)

Question 12: a. Levi (13:33)

Question 6: a. God stopped providing manna (5:12)

Question 13: c. 85 (14:10)

Question 7: c. Take off his sandals (5:15)

Question 14: b. Simeon (19:9)

Question 15: a. Accidental murder (20:3)

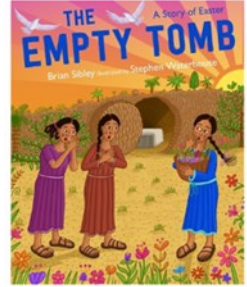
Book Reviews

The Empty Tomb - a story of Easter

By Brian Sibley, SPCK, £6.99

Here is an illustrated retelling of the Easter story in short chapters, ideal for 6+ years. It would be a good introduction to the stories of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the death and resurrection of Jesus, His Ascension, and Pentecost.

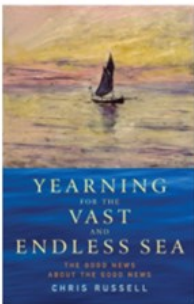
The book includes the procession of the singing crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem, and the moment Jesus shared the bread and the cup at the Passover meal. It also tells of how the disciples' sorrow turned to joy and wonder when they saw Jesus once again after His death, eating and drinking with them. The book also relates the excitement of Pentecost. The stories can be read alone, or read aloud.



-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

Yearning for the Vast and Endless Sea - the Good News about the Good News

By Chris Russell, Canterbury Press £16.99



This book's title is taken from a quote by the author Saint-Exupery: "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the people to gather wood, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea."

Drawing on writers like Bonhoeffer, Newbigin and Pope Francis' landmark *Evangelii Gaudium*, Chris Russell asks how the church and individual Christians can communicate the love of God in language and action, and also explores how the good news is

received.

Church Reading / Cleaning Rotas

If anyone wishes to be on either the readers rota for either church, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant church wardens.

St. Catwg's Readers Rota

St. Catwg's Readers Rota					
March 2024		April 2024		May 2024	
3 rd	Christine Harvey	7 th	Janeve Manca	5 th	Cheryl Pugh
10 th	Joan Jenkins	14 th	Christine Harvey	12 th	Janeve Manca
17 th	Pat Davies	21 st	Joan Jenkins	19 th	Christine Harvey
24 th	Paul Thomas	28 th	Pat Davies	26 th	Joan Jenkins
31 st	Cheryl Pugh				

St. Margaret's Readers Rota

St. Margaret's Readers Rota					
March 2024		April 2024		May 2024	
3 rd	June Phillips	7 th	Kath Llewellyn	5 th	June Phillips
10 th	Jenn East	14 th	Neil Hazell	12 th	Christine Thorpe
17 th	Jennette Jones	21 st	Alex Ball	19 th	Enid Mayne
24 th	Linda Bartlett	28 th	Jennette Jones	26 th	Huw Thomas
31 st	Lynne Thomas				

Should you wish to be on the St. Margaret's cleaning rota please contact the relevant Church Wardens.

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota								
March 2024			April 2024			May 2024		
3	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	7	Lynda Trollope	Enid	5	Lynda Trollope	Enid
10	Lynda Trollope	Enid	14	Jennette	Audrey	12	Jennette	Audrey
17	Jennette	Audrey	21	Kath	June	19	Kath	June
24	Kath	June	28	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	26	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
31	Lynda Bartlett	Sue						

From the Register

Christian Funerals

March 2024

19th

June Irene Thomas RIP

28th

Sandra Reynolds RIP

***May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.***





Gone yet not forgotten,
Although we are apart,
Your spirit lives within me,
Forever in my heart.
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Author Unknown

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Prayers for the Bereaved

*May the love of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
console you and gently wipe away every tear from your eyes.
May Almighty God bless you, and look after you at this
difficult time. Amen.*

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

*Lord, in our time of grief we turn to you. God of love
hear our cries. Listen to our prayers for whom
you have called out of this world. Lead them to
your kingdom of light and peace. Amen.*

For the Younger Generation.

The Tale of the TWO BUILDERS



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.

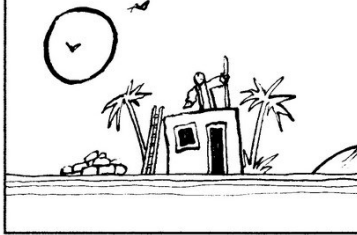


SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.



THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME...

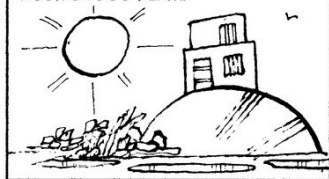


...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND THE RAIN FELL...

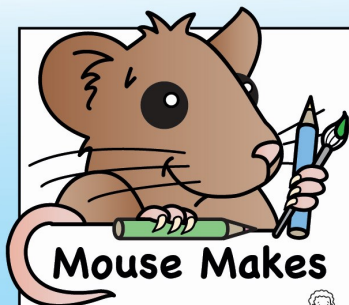


...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION.



Mouse Makes



How many times
had the risen Jesus
revealed himself to the
disciples before this?

Read
John 21:14



How many
disciples were there?
Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish
did they catch?
Read John 21: 11



READ
the story in
John 21

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man,
"It is the Lord!"

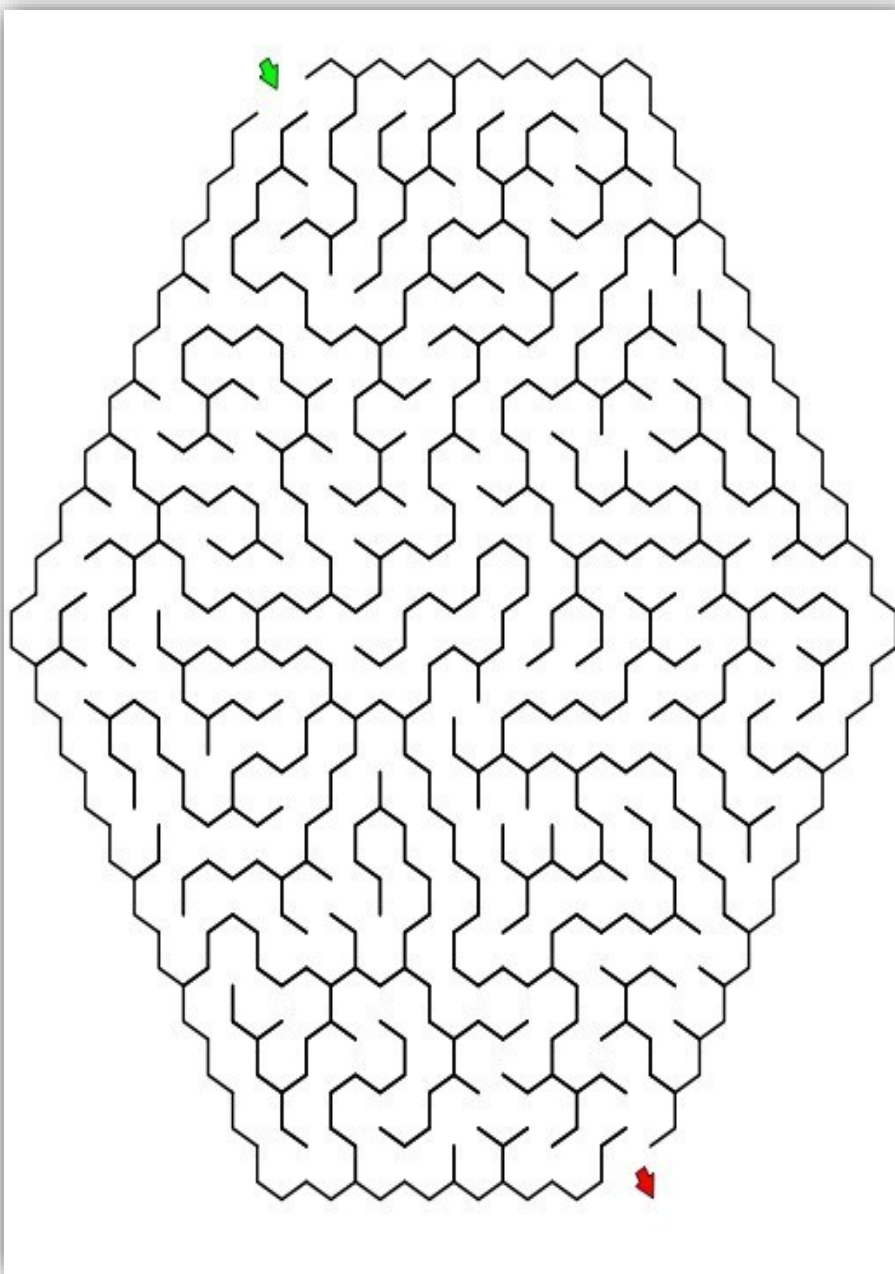


DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY
FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET
RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

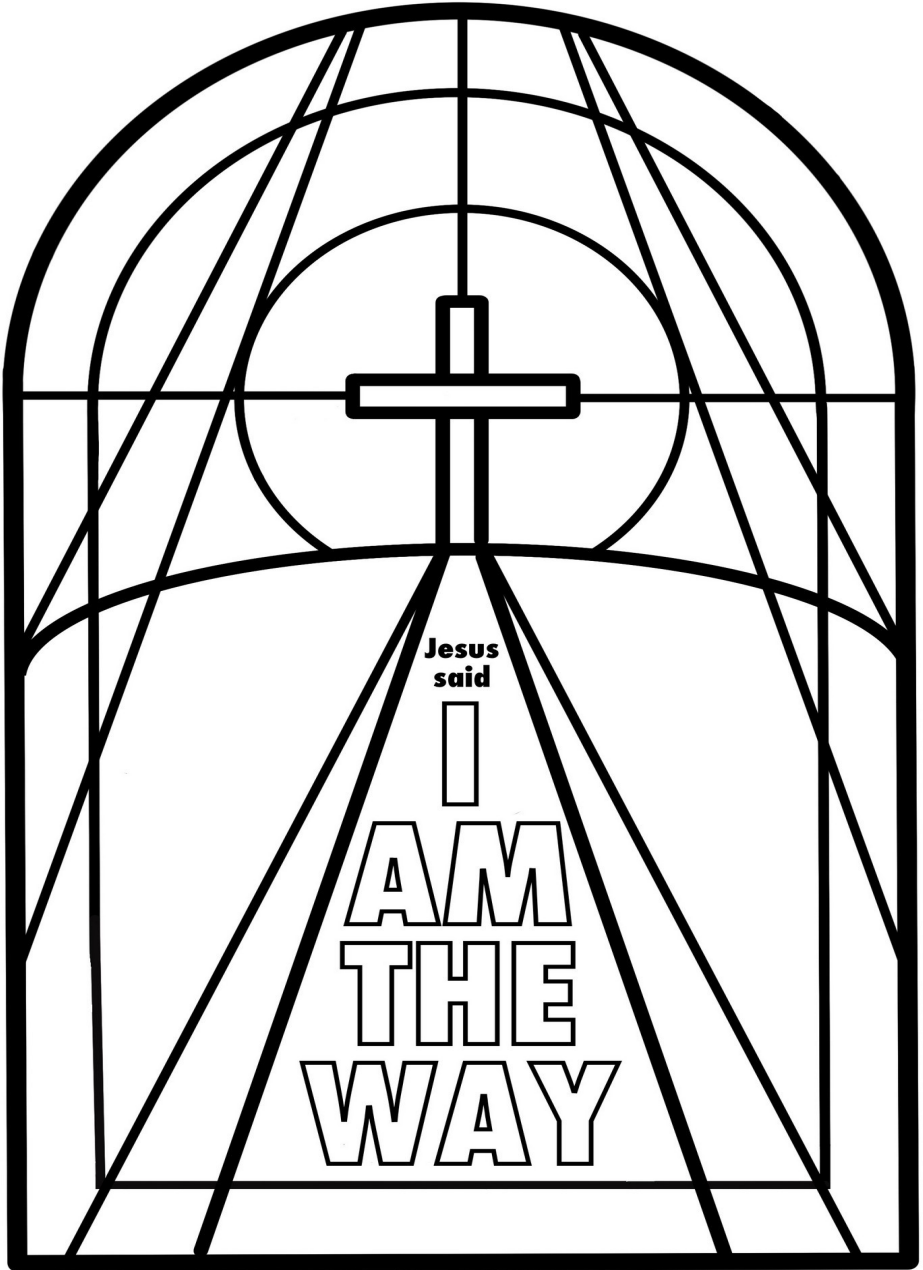
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Booking and Enquiries

Please Contact:

Christine Harvey: 01443 833123



Christine Harvey 01443 833123 /

Service Times

Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will be held twice weekly in both our Churches:

*St. Catwg's each Sunday at 11.00am and each Thursday at 10.00am and
St. Margaret's each Sunday at 9.30am and each Wednesday at 10.00am.*

Both of our Churches have a friendly and welcoming atmosphere where you can worship our Lord, Jesus Christ. Everybody is welcome to attend any of our services listed below. If it is your first visit to the District of Gelligaer and you are new to our Church please do not hesitate to make yourself known to us.

SUNDAY

9.30 am. Sung Eucharist at St. Margaret's Church

1st Sunday of each Month - Family Services

11.00 am. Sung Eucharist at St. Catwg's Church

WEDNESDAY

10.00 am. Holy Eucharist at St. Margaret's Church,
followed by Tea and Coffee

THURSDAY

10.00 am. Holy Eucharist at St. Catwg's Church

General Disclaimer

The appearance of comments, articles, advertisements, hyperlinks, or statements made within our District magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the District of Gelligaer Wardens and Council. While we aim to include accurate and up-to-date information at the time of publication, we make no warranties or representations as to the accuracy. We therefore assume no liability or responsibility for any error or omission in the content.

Directory of Contacts

Should you wish to contact a specific group that meets in our churches, please use the relevant telephone number from the list below.

Thank You!

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Family History Research: Carolyn Corbin Tel: 07983677360
 Email. carolyncorbin63@aol.com

Mothers' Union:

Branch Leader Kath Llewellyn. Tel: 01443 829658

Branch Secretary

Branch Treasurer June Phillips. Tel: 01443 835977

Community Dance Group: June Phillips. Tel: 01443 835977

Arts and Crafts Group: June Phillips. Tel: 01443 835977

Neuadd St. Catwg's Hall: Christine Harvey. Tel: 01443 833123
(Bookings and Enquiries)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Solutions to this month's puzzles.

2	5	7	6	4	8	1	3	9
8	6	1	3	9	2	5	4	7
3	4	9	1	5	7	6	8	2
4	9	6	7	8	3	2	5	1
7	8	5	2	1	4	9	6	3
1	2	3	5	6	9	4	7	8
6	3	2	4	7	1	8	9	5
9	1	4	8	3	5	7	2	6
5	7	8	9	2	6	3	1	4

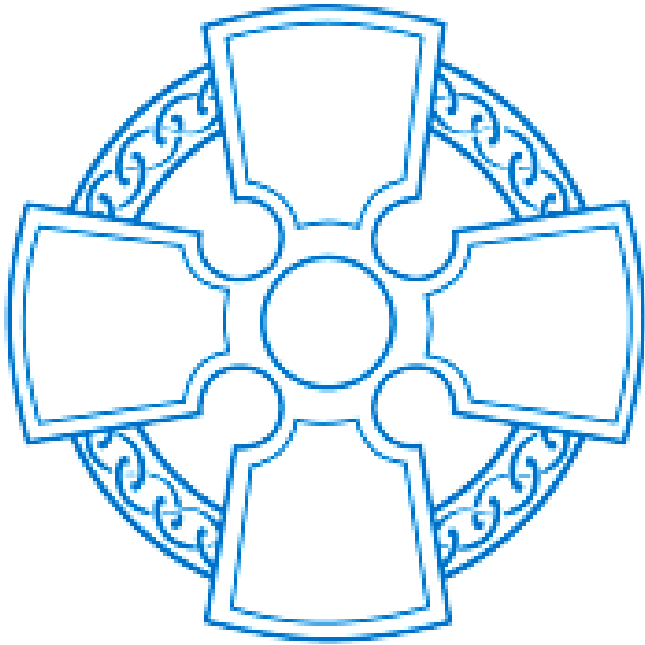
U	E	A	A	T	A	A	A	A
T	R	A	N	S	G	R	E	S
M	S	S	C	I	H	A	A	A
O	U	T	E	P	H	E	S	I
S	E	M	E	N	A	N	O	O
T	H	R	O	B	R	A	M	A
O	L	L	O	P	A	D	A	N
N	E	A	R	E	S	T	N	E
U	P	I	A	R	A	A	A	A
C	H	I	L	D	L	E	S	S
L	E	O	D	T	R	R	A	A
E	X	C	O	M	M	U	N	I
I	E	E	P	C	T	D	A	E

Answer to *Sudoku* on page 18

Answers to *Crossword* on page 22



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
TÂF RHYMNI
TAFF RHYMNEY
MINISTRY AREA



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