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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.*



Easter



What's in this edition!

Greetings from the Rectory.

Reader Writes.

District News/Messages.

Mothers' Union.

Books of the Bible.

For the Children!

and More.....

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with
boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim
your risen life and fill us
with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father



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Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

As we near the end of Lent we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem. On his shoulders Jesus carries the weight of the sins of the whole world. As we journey with Jesus we carry the weight of our world bringing to him the needs of all



for whom life is a daily struggle. We carry the fear and anxiety of those caught up in conflicts throughout the world including the people of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. We pray for those suffering the effects of natural disaster including the people of Myanmar and Thailand following the recent earthquake there.

As we pray for those in need we are reminded of the great commandment to love our neighbour as ourself and of Jesus teaching that we should take every opportunity that comes our way to act as the Good Samaritan to those in need. One of the disciplines of Lent is to think about our almsgiving – our giving to charity to help those in need and I am very grateful to those who have taken the small jars and have filled them with 5p and 20p coins.

This month Lent comes to an end and we celebrate the great feast of Easter which stands at the very

centre of our faith. It is *THE* celebration of the year, the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Easter is our celebration of the living Christ. Not even his death on the cross could keep him from us, from his people. He lives, he shares our lives and shares with us the glory of his eternal life. Easter is a celebration of love and hope. As we witness the horrors of war in Europe Easter reminds us that nothing, not even war, can keep Jesus from his people. As Jesus shares the suffering of the people of those threatened by war and violence Easter gives us the sure hope that eventually a new day will dawn and peace will be restored. This, above all else, is our prayer this Easter.

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

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Holy Week and the passion, death and resurrection.



“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.

For me, the months seem to be flying by. We are now in April and preparing to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Before this celebration, we need to remind ourselves of the pain and agony of Holy Week where, on Maundy Thursday we share in the Last Supper and on Good Friday we mourn the crucifixion of Jesus through the Stations of the Cross and the Veneration of the Cross. Many of us may be familiar with the term “Maundy Money” but from where does Maundy Thursday originate?



It is said that “maundy” is a shortened form of the Latin word *Mandatum* which means “command.” As we read chapter 13 of John’s Gospel, the events of Maundy Thursday unfold with the Last Supper which was Christ’s farewell to his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion, with some of the disciples either denying, betraying or deserting him. This final meal of bread and wine that Jesus shared with his disciples established the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Following the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples who would become the first priests and before leaving for the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment – “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” During the Maundy Thursday service in Church, we too receive the bread and wine – the body and blood of Christ and parishioners have their feet washed. The action of the Church during this service also witnesses the Church’s esteem for Christ’s body which is present in the consecrated host in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which is carried in solemn procession to the flower bedecked Altar of Repose where it remains entombed until the communion service on Good Friday. Finally, there is the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by us, the people where we have the opportunity to stay and keep watch just as the disciples stayed with the Lord before his betrayal by Judas. As we have been on our journey through Holy Week, we have arrived at the empty tomb and the joyous news of the resurrection.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Carolyn

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16

It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem.

The Chief Priests were plotting



How can we get rid of Jesus?
He always has crowds around him.

Jesus' disciple Judas came to them...



I could help you.

We'd be happy to pay you



How much?

30 silver coins



30 silver coins happened to be the same amount that had to be paid as compensation to the owner if a slave was killed
Ex. 31:32



I'll let you know when Jesus is alone.

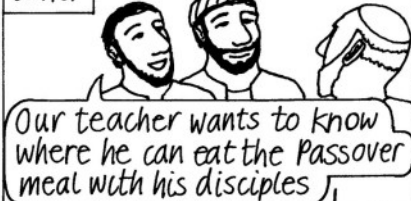
Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal?

Go into the city and follow the man carrying a water jar to his home

They did, and asked the house owner



Our teacher wants to know where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples

The room is upstairs on the roof, ready to use



Peter and John got the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his 12 disciples went to the room to eat the Passover meal.



What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

Why do Christians wash feet on Maundy Thursday?

At the Last Supper Jesus shocked His disciples by washing their feet. He did this as an example, to demonstrate to them that they should serve others with humility. Over the centuries, some churches have recreated this act of humility at a special service on Maundy Thursday.

Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Good Friday, the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9 a.m. in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the ‘passions’ composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours’ devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The ‘Three Hours of the Cross’ often take the form of an extended meditation on the ‘Seven Last Words from the Cross’, with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

Good Friday, Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke’s account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself’ (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd’s taunts: ‘Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us.’ He highlights the question of Jesus’ identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal’s response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: ‘this man has done nothing wrong.’ He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, ‘remember me when You come into Your kingdom’, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus’ forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; ‘Today you will be with Me in paradise.’ Jesus used the picture of a

walled garden to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? 'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God' (1 Peter 3:18).

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EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God. Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant

simply ‘beginning month’ – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it’s easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

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Notices!

The social club AGM took place on the 19th. February, thanks to all who attended.

The committee is as follows..

June Phillips chairperson

Jenn East. Treasurer

Linda Bartlett & Cheryl Pugh .Secretary

Hilda Shorey, Lynne Thomas, Linda Hall, Fr Gary.

Iiris joined as well.

Thanks to all of you for supporting and helping us over the last year , fellowship is important and we are thankful that we have it in abundance.

Dates for the diary..

2nd April

4th May.

14th June.

5th October.

25th October.

12th December.

Quiz Night.

Buffet lunch /VE Day.

Strawberry tea

Harvest lunch

Autumn Fayre .

Christmas Draw.

We will let you know times nearer the event.



District of Gelligaer Website

Scan the QR code on your smart phone, then open in browser to visit our website or visit us on

<https://www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk>

100 Club Winners!

March 2025

Date:	No:	Winner	Church
2nd	24	Lauren Sewell	St. Maragret's
9th	42	Chris Corbin	St. Maragret's
16th	74	Gwennan Bartlett	St. Maragret's.
23rd	85	Cheryl Pugh	St. Catwg's
30th	87	Pauline Vile	St. Catwg's



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Lent Groups 2025

Our Lent Groups this year will reflect on the experiences of those who travelled with Jesus to Jerusalem.

I know it can be difficult for people to attend every meeting and so each session will be a “stand alone” session.

The sessions will be shared between St. Catwg's Church and Sy. Margaret's Church.

Our remaining meetings are:

St. Catwg's Church on Thursday 3rd April 11.00am
St. Margaret's Church on Wednesday 9th April 6.30pm

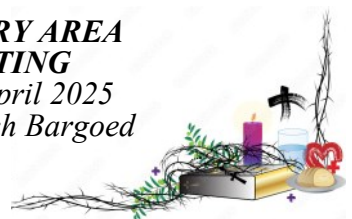
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DISTRICT OF GELLIGAER ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting will take place next Sunday
Tuesday 22nd April 2025
at 7.00pm in St. Catwg's Church.

TAFF RYHYMNEY MINISTRY AREA ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Takes place on Sunday 27th April 2025
At 3.00pm in St. Gwladys Church Bargoed



God in the Arts

This year the Revd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums...you can see the image by googling the title of the painting and the artist. '

‘In sweet music is such art’: the Basilica of St Mark in Venice

In 828 the relics of St Mark the evangelist were seized from their resting place in Alexandria and brought by two adventurers to Venice. The Basilica of St Mark was built to house these relics, and it was this link between the saint and Venice that determined so much of the city’s history through the Middle Ages.

Venetians would go to war under the banner of the winged lion, the symbol of St Mark, and through the centuries Venice established its independence, its own system of aristocratic government and commercial supremacy in the Mediterranean. The Basilica of St Mark is a vivid testimony to the grandeur of Venice and this amazing history. James Morris has described the church as descended from Byzantium: “a barbaric building, like a great Mongolian pleasure pavilion or a fortress in Turkestan.”

We celebrate St Mark this year on 29th April, (usually 25th) but apart from his Gospel, we know little about the saint’s life. He is mentioned by St Peter and St Paul as ‘son’ and missionary companion. There are many traditions about St Mark: he might be the young man in Gethsemane in chapter 14 of the Gospel, and it is thought that he was martyred in the reign of Trajan. What we do have of St Mark is his Gospel, generally accepted as the earliest of the four to be written. Mark has no infancy narratives and no preparation for the life and ministry of Jesus. Instead, his Gospel begins with the strange, exotic character of St John the Baptist emerging from the wilderness to proclaim the Good News of the Son of God.

In the same way the Basilica of St Mark emerges from the lagoon as strange and as exotic as the Baptist in the Gospel. E V Lucas in ‘A Wanderer in Venice’ invites the visitor to this church to “let the walls and the floor and the pillars and the ceiling do their own magical work.” And the visitor might be lucky enough to hear some of the music of Venetian composers sounding through the basilica. In the 16th century Adrian Willaert wrote music that enhanced the domes and mosaics and ceilings with works for two organs and two choirs sounding out from different parts of the building.

Giovanni Gabrieli, who died in 1612, built upon that tradition. His set of motets, ‘Sacrae Symphoniae’, were written for the special acoustics of this marbled basilica. He developed the antiphonal sounds of Willaert with glorious, harmonic colours, a boldness of modulation, and a variety of dynamics and timbres. We hear all of that in the motet ‘In Ecclesiis,’ which is regarded as his masterpiece. The choirs, brass and organ are divided into five groups that would have sounded out around the basilica: ‘In churches bless the Lord, in every place bless the Lord, for God is my salvation and my glory. Alleluia.’

As we celebrate St Mark on his feast day, we can think of these threefold proclamations of his Good News: his Gospel, which, in its earthy realism, calls the disciple to follow Jesus wherever He goes; this Basilica that calls us to explore its mystery and marvels; and the music of Gabrieli that calls us to echo God’s praises in our own lives.

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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.

The Wonder and the Sorrow of those PCR Tests

PCR tests were a fact of life for most of us three years ago this month. As a biologist who was doing this procedure long before most people had heard of it, I take secret delight in people’s use of the acronym. Let me open the laboratory door and share the wonders it conceals.

That swab that you, or someone else, poked down your throat and up your nose went into a tube containing a little liquid. That liquid was then heated or mixed with a chemical to kill any live virus particles, then purified to get rid of every part of the virus except RNA.

The test was actually RT-PCR, the first step being Reverse Transcription by an enzyme that converted any RNA present into DNA. Multiple copies of that DNA were then made, using the Polymerase Chain Reaction. Reverse transcription produced one half of a DNA helix, like one side of an unzipped zip. The enzyme DNA Polymerase is a little like the zipper, except as well as zipping up, it also manufactures the other half of the zip using DNA subunits that have been added to the tube. This process works because a bit like a

zip, the two sides of the DNA helix are mirror images of each other. If that new helix is unzipped, DNA polymerase can then make a new strand on both sides.

The beauty of PCR is in its simplicity. Multiple rounds of heating (which melts the DNA helix strands apart) and cooling (which allows the enzyme to make new DNA) produce more and more mirror-image DNA strands.

Scientists often have stories to tell about the wonders they study, or make use of, in the lab. Sadly, if this particular process worked it meant that there was probably COVID-19 in the sample, and someone might have been about to become quite ill.

Do you live with similar tensions in your own life? Maybe you love taking care of people, but your role only exists because others live with great physical or mental challenges.

For the Psalmists, a relationship with God was forged in the confusing space where the struggles of life mingled with praise for creation and trust in Him. How can we learn from these inspired ancient writers, celebrating the wonders we experience in our day-to-day lives while also lamenting the world's brokenness, praying for healing and justice?

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10 Easter one-liners

What do you need if your chocolate eggs mysteriously disappear? An eggsplanation

What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear? 14-carrot gold

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? Hip hop

What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? Hopscotch

What do you call a bunny with fleas? Bugs Bunny

What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards? A receding hare-line

How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group? Just look for the gray hares.

Why do people paint eggs for Easter? It's easier than trying to wallpaper them!

What do rabbits say before they eat? "Lettuce pray."

Where does Christmas come before Easter? The dictionary.



Mothers' Union



At our meeting at the beginning of March Jane Fenwick came to see us. I thought she was coming to give us some facts regarding the concerns we had about closing our branch, but she came with a projector and slides of her time spent In St. Helene. It was a lovely evening and very uplifting to see where she lived with her husband for several years. It was interesting in that it took five days to get to the island from Cape Town, as they didn't have an airport at that time (they do now). The number of churches, and even a cathedral, on such a small island was incredible. The climate looked lovely and cheered us up thinking that nice weather for us was hopefully on its way. Jane was very knowledgeable and it was great listening to her account of life there. It has totally changed since they left as there are now only about 5000 people living there and because there is no further education the young people are leaving and not returning. They are a very mixed community who all live well together but their way of life is changing.

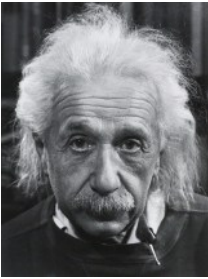
I had a phone call from Jean Stark asking if her and Jane could come to our meeting with answers to our original questions, but she was unable to come to our April meeting, but has asked if Jane can attend. I told her that we had closed our bank account as we didn't want to keep paying bank charges on an account that we are not using. Jane will be there with us at our meeting on 1st April and I hope she will have some information on how those who wish to remain members can do so. We will discuss at our meeting what we should do to celebrate VE Day in May. Suggestions very welcome.

We remember Marion and Dorothea in our prayers, both continuing their lives in their separate care homes. We are so pleased that Jeanette's husband Gareth is home and hopefully making progress. Please keep up our meetings, coffee mornings and quiz afternoons as this is a much needed community spirit in these very worrying times.

God Bless

Kath

Remembering Albert Einstein



Seventy years ago this month, on 18th April 1955, Albert Einstein, the German-born theoretical physicist, died. Considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century, he is known especially for developing the special and general theories of relativity.

He formulated possibly the best-known theory in the world – the special theory of relativity (including the iconic equation $E = mc^2$) – in 1905 while working as a technical expert, third class, at the Swiss Patent Office in Bern. He went on to become widely known and admired as a physicist of genius. He died in his local hospital in New Jersey of a haemorrhage, having become an American citizen. He was also a Swiss citizen.

Einstein's family were secular Ashkenazi Jews. He was never convinced that God intervened on a personal level, regarding such an idea as naïve. But he had a firm belief in God as creator and sustainer of the universe.

He had an ongoing and never settled debate with Niels Bohr, the Danish theoretical physicist, about the way the universe was described by quantum mechanics, holding that chance could not be behind it because “God does not play dice”.

Einstein was clear that he was not an atheist – more a “religious nonbeliever”. He was disappointed in the end by his failure to prove non-randomness and to come up with a unified field theory by including electromagnetism in his geometric theory of gravitation. He did receive the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his theory of the photoelectric effect.

Not long before he died, he wrote in a letter to physicist David Bohm: “If God created the world, His primary concern was certainly not to make its understanding easy for us.”

Albert Einstein was married twice and had three children by his first wife, Mileva Marić. He also played violin – hence the subtle reference to him “playing electric violin” in Bob Dylan's Desolation Row.

The genius of Madame Tussaud.

Some 175 years ago, on 16th April 1850, Madame Marie Tussaud, a French artist known for her wax sculptures, died. She was the founder in 1835 of Madame Tussauds wax museum in London.

Born Anna Maria Grosholtz, she was taught wax modelling in Paris by Philippe Curtius, from whom she inherited two wax museums. Imprisoned as a royalist during the French Revolution, she was given the job of making death masks from heads freshly removed from their bodies by the guillotine.

Her subsequent marriage to François Tussaud was not a success and she moved to England, where she toured for over 30 years with her collection of wax models until she found it a permanent home in Baker Street, London, where it became extremely popular: Charles Dickens described it as “more than an exhibition... an institution”. Her grandson Joseph Randall moved it to its current location on Marylebone Road in 1883.



The extensive exhibition is now operated by Merlin Entertainments and has locations in cities across four continents. The waxwork figures depict prominent people from many fields, including three Popes, Martin Luther King and Billy Graham. But it has not been without controversy: in 2004 a Nativity scene using “celebrities” – including David and Victoria Beckham as Joseph and Mary, Graham Norton as a shepherd and Kylie Minogue as an angel – was roundly criticised by the Roman Catholic Church in particular, and removed after it was damaged in an attack. Wax figures of gods were used in funeral rites in ancient Egypt; the Greeks and Romans also used them in religious ceremonies, and dolls for children were also made of wax. In the Middle Ages, churches sometimes received votive or thanks offerings of wax figures.

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Centenary Celebrations for the First Church in Wales Church

The first church to be consecrated after the disestablishment of the Church in Wales in 1920 has just celebrated its 100th anniversary.

St Martin of Tours in Llay, near Wrexham, opened in 1925 as the village was being developed. It was built to serve miners at the new Llay Main Colliery and their families. It was described in a newspaper report at the time as being “cheering evidence of the courage and vitality of the Church in Wales”.

Books of the Bible.

Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible, which will run until the end of 2025.

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings (*'mishle'*) that are generally attributed to Solomon (Proverbs 1:1), who uttered 3000 proverbs (1Kings 4:32). The purpose of these oracles is *'for attaining wisdom and discipline'* (1:2). Solomon was concerned that people, especially the young, would understand *'the sayings and riddles of the wise.'* (1:3-6). His guiding principle is that *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.'* (1:7).

To give an idea of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few examples:

Knowing God: *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding'* (9:10).

Guarding Our Speech: *'A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver'* (25:11).

Marital faithfulness: *'May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth'* (5:15-20).

Our Work: *'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!'* (6:6-11).

Dangers of Strong Drink: *'Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise'* (20:1).

Justice and Honesty: *'The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight'* (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, *'For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and He examines all his paths'* (5:21); providence, *'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails'* (19:21) and goodness, *'The LORD is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous'* (15:29).

Proverbs reminds us that God is concerned with the way we live today. *'Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves'* (Eugene Peterson).

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 Tübingen, 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 Flossenbürg 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.

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</i>
<i>6th April</i>	THE FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT: PASSION SUNDAY
<i>13th April</i>	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT: PALM SUNDAY
<i>14th April</i>	MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK
<i>15th April</i>	TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK
<i>16th April</i>	WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK
<i>17th April</i>	MAUNDY THURSDAY
<i>18th April</i>	GOOD FRIDAY
<i>19th April</i>	EASTER EVE
<i>20th April</i>	EASTER DAY
<i>27th April</i>	THE SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER

Readings for Palm Sunday & Holy Week

(April 13th to April 20th)

Sunday, 13th - Sixth Sunday of Lent: Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms:

Luke 19. 28-40, Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 19-29, Philippians 2. 5-11

Luke 22.14 – 23.56 or Luke 23. 1-49

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50. 4-9a, Psalm 31. 9-16, [17, 18] Philippians 2. 5-11

Luke 22.14 – 23.56 or Luke 23. 1-49

Monday, 14th April - Monday in Holy Week

Readings:

Isaiah 42. 1-9 Psalm 36. 5-11
Hebrews 9. 11-15 John 12. 1-11

Tuesday, 15th April - Tuesday in Holy Week

Readings:

Isaiah 49. 1-7, Psalm 71. 1-8, [9-14],
1 Corinthians 1. 18-31, John 12. 20-36

Wednesday 16th April - Wednesday in Holy week

Readings:

Isaiah 50. 4-9a, Psalm 70,
Hebrews 12. 1-3, John 13. 21-32

Thursday, 17th April - Maundy Thursday

Readings:

Exodus 12. 1-4, [5-10,] 11-14, Psalm 116. 1-2, 12-19 or 116. 12-19,
1 Corinthians 11. 23-26, John 13. 1-17, 31b-35

Friday, 18th April - Good Friday

Readings:

Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12 Psalm 22. or 22. 1-11 or 22. 1-21
Hebrews 10. 16-25 or 4. 14-16; 5. 7-9. John 18.1 – 19.42

Saturday 19th April - Easter Eve

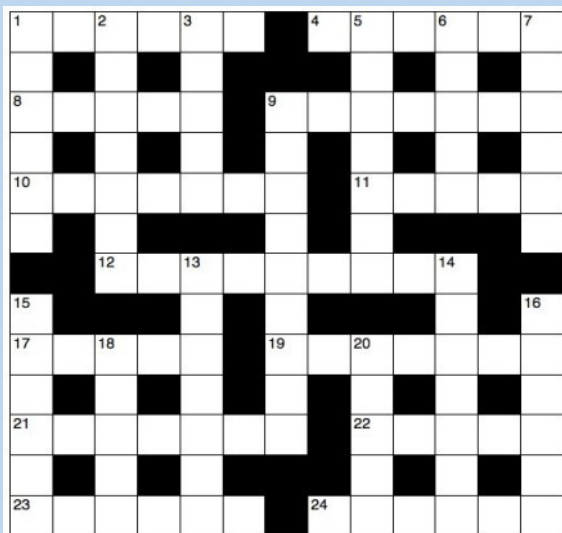
Readings:

Job 14. 1-14 or Lamentations 3.1-9, 19-24
Psalm 31. 1-4, 15-16 or 31.1-5
1 Peter 4. 1-8 Matthew 27. 57-66 or John 19. 38-42

Sunday 20th April - Easter Day

Readings:

Acts 10. 34-43 or Isaiah 65. 17-25 Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 14-24
1 Corinthians 15. 1-11 or Acts 10. 34-43
John 20. 1-18 or Luke 24. 1-12



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
7 He reps (anag.) (6)
9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
15 The human mind or soul (6)
16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Crossword solution - Page 39

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May's Magazine 2025

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 21st April, for inclusion in the May's edition.

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

Book Reviews

The Promised One – the wonderful story of Easter

By Antonia Woodward, SPCK, £7.99



A colourfully illustrated bedtime picture book for 3-to-5-year-olds, covering Easter from Palm Sunday to Ascension.

It includes stories of how Jesus made sick people well, made food for thousands, and cared for the lonely and the needy. How He was like no one else, and the people believed the Promised One - God-on-earth - had arrived. Others were not so sure.

But God always has a plan.

This is the story of God's plan, and how Jesus came for everyone, everywhere, for all time.

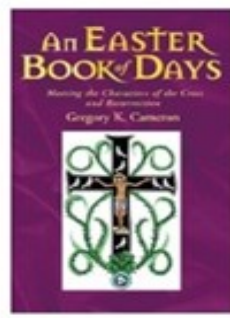
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An Easter Book of Days – meeting the characters of the Cross and Resurrection

By Gregory Cameron, Canterbury Press, £10.99

Here are 25 characters from the stories of Lent, Holy Week and Easter - from the perspectives of scripture, history and legend. How can they enrich our practice of faith today?

As well as the familiar figures - Christ Himself, Mary His mother, Mary Magdalene, the disciples, Pilate, the soldiers, and the thieves crucified with Jesus, there is Veronica, wiping the face of Jesus as He carried his cross.



The author also explores the rich traditions that have built up around the cross and the crown of thorns, as well as tales of how the robin got its red breast, or what happened to the disciples after the Ascension. All in all, the book offers a richly textured guide to the Easter season.

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

March 2025			April 2025			May 2025		
2 nd	Pat Davies		6 th	Pat Davies		4 th	Christine Harvey	
9 th	Paul Thomas		13 th	Paul Thomas		11 th	Pat Davies	
16 th	Cheryl Pugh		20 th	Cheryl Pugh		18 th	Paul Thomas	
23 rd	Janeve Manca		27 th	Janeve Manca		25 th	Cheryl Pugh	
30 th	Christine Harvey							

St. Margaret's Readers Rota

March 2025			April 2025			May 2025		
2 nd	June Phillips		6 th	Kath Llewellyn		4 th	June Phillips	
9 th	Jenn East		13 th	Neil Hazell		11 th	Chris Ball	
16 th	Jennette Jones		20 th	Alex Ball		18 th	Christine Thorpe	
23 rd	Linda Bartlett		27 th	Audrey Powell		25 th	Enid Mayne	
30 th	Lynne Thomas							

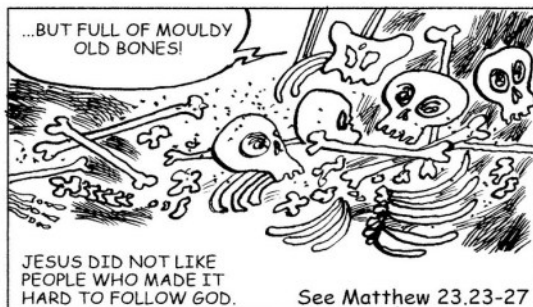
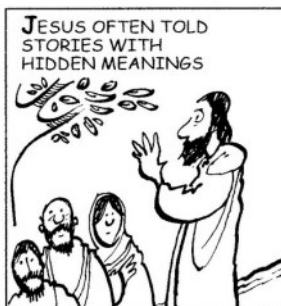
Should you wish to be on the St. Margaret's cleaning rota please contact the relevant Church Wardens.

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

March 2025			April 2025			May 2025		
2	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	6	Lynda Trollope	Enid	4	Lynda Trollope	Enid
9	Lynda Trollope	Enid	13	Jennette	Audrey	11	Jennette	Audrey
16	Jennette	Audrey	20	Kath	June	18	Kath	June
13	Kath	June	27	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	25	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
30	Lynda Bartlett	Sue						

For the Younger Generation.

"Some tough talking"





Mouse Makes

On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:

"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."

Matthew 28:6



Jesus is here

Jesus said:

"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."

Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and **21:1-14**

R E D E E M E R
E A S T E R P I
S A V I O U R S
U L T I M J A E
R I E D E L I N
R V J E S U S S
E E W B S P E P
C C L O I S S N
T H O S A N N A
I R R O H Y E U
O I D N P P W S
N S G O T E L L
K T A F O A I O
I Y O G J C F R
N U J O Y E E B
G O O D N E W S



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:

"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."

John 14:3



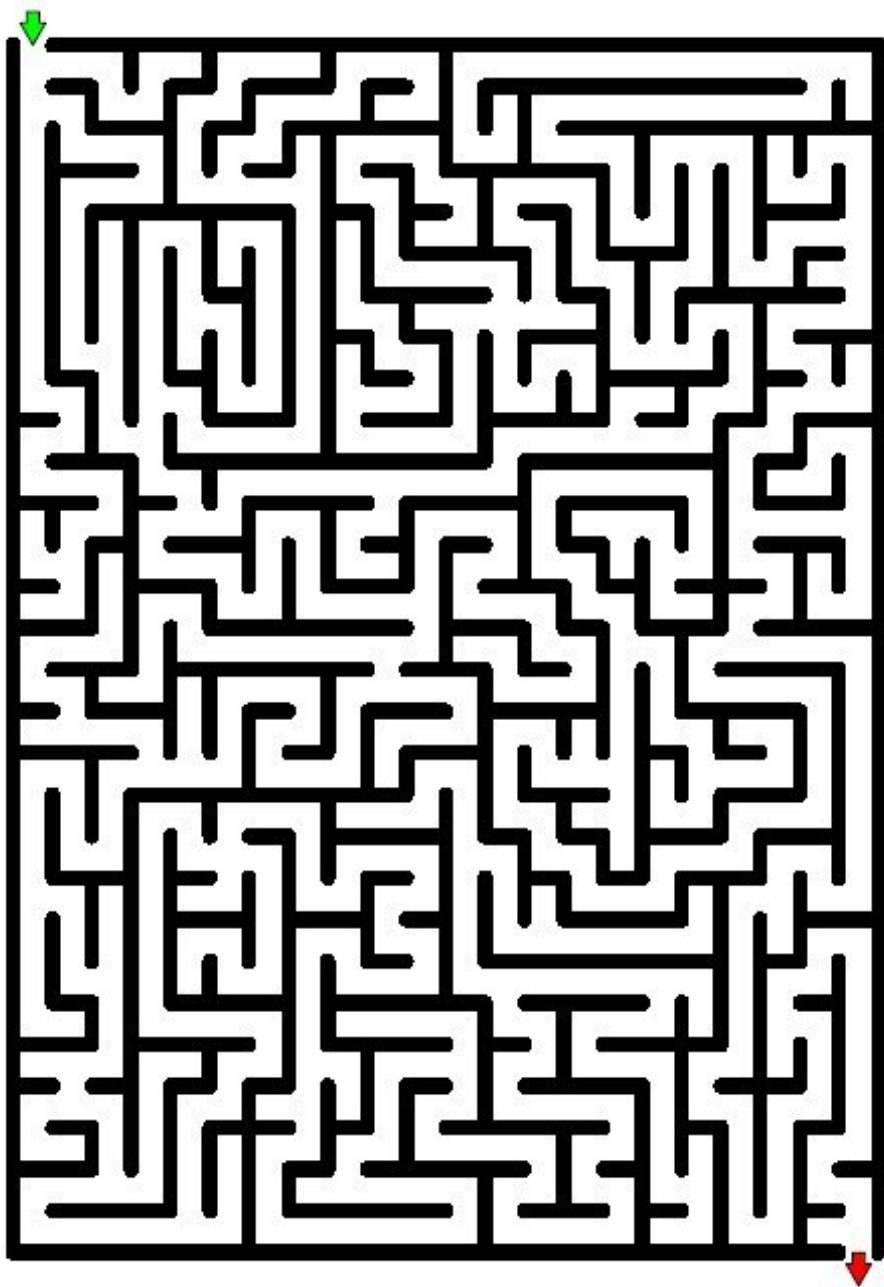
JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS • GO TELL • EASTER



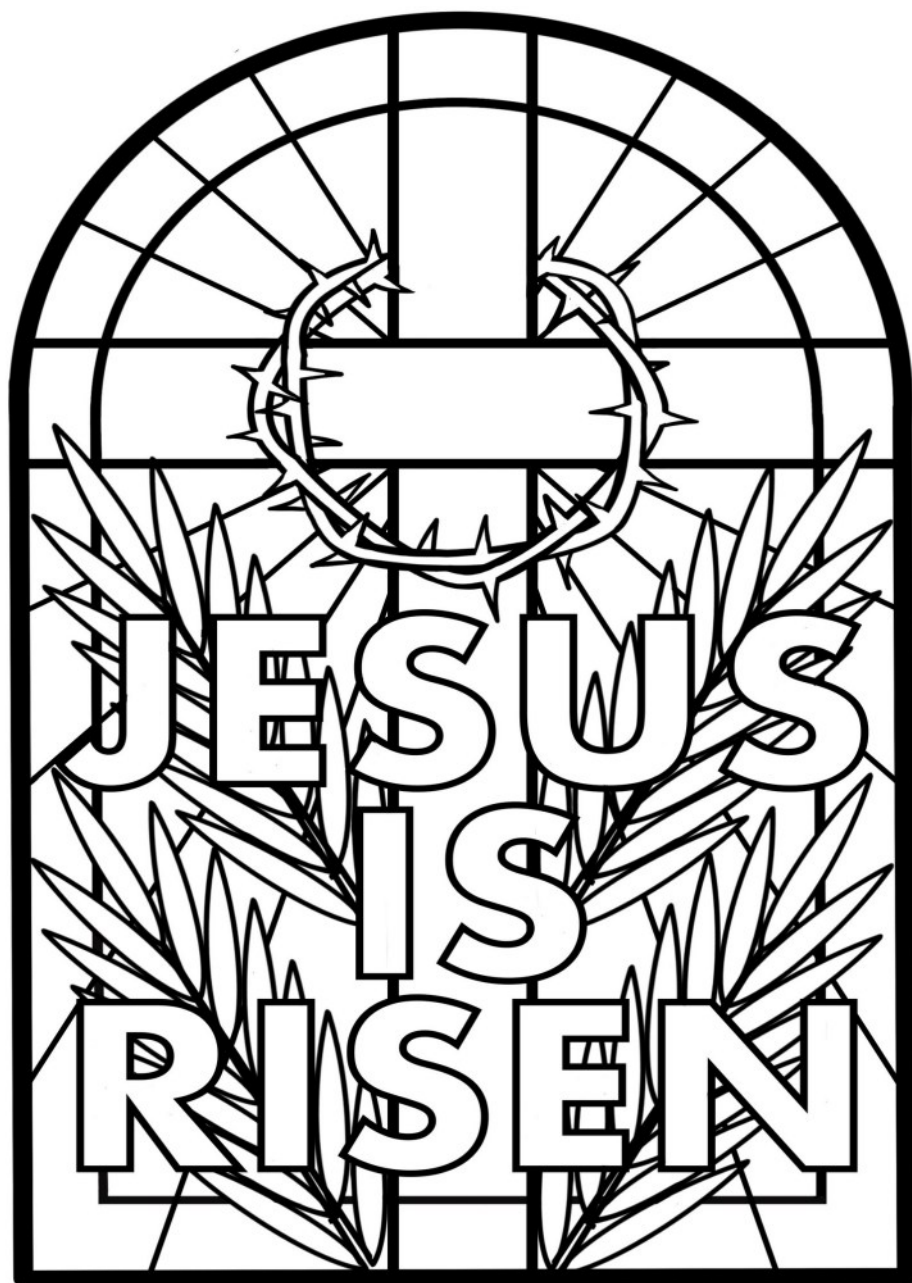
MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE



Complete the Maze!



Colour in!



From the Register

Christian Funerals

March 2025

4th	Kitty Marlow RIP
10th	Graham Gibbs RIP
11th	Brian Davies RIP
17th	Lynda Thomas RIP
19th	Patricia John RIP
20th	Marie Davies RIP
<i>May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.</i>	





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

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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.***

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*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.***

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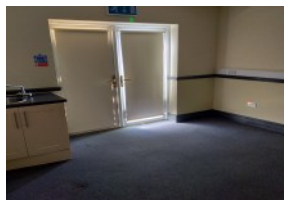
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Booking and Enquiries

Please Contact:

Christine Harvey: 01443 833123



Christine Harvey 01443 833123 / Booking Secretary.
Facebook Page: <https://facebook.com/Neuadd St Catwg Community Hall>

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 Parish 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 Committee. 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!

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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

Flower Arranging Group: Nesta Williams. Tel: 01443 831009

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

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

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Solutions to this month's puzzles.

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

C	O	S	M	I	C	T	H	O	M	A	S
L	C	S				T	O	O	P		
I	N	H	I	S		D	E	L	A	I	A
F	O	U	E	E	Y	S	E				
F	A	L	W	E	L	W	A	T	E	R	
S	A		R	E	C	O	V	E	R	E	D
P		A		E							S
S	I	D	O	N		R	A	D	I	A	N
Y	A	D	E	E		C	O				
C	E	N	T	A	U	R	B	R	O	I	L
H	C	C				A	N	E			
E	L	E	V	E	N		P	R	I	S	O

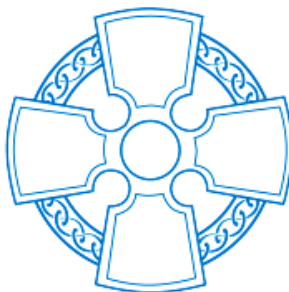
Answer to **Sudoku** on page 21

Answers to **Crossword** on page 22

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