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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 LENT

What's in this edition!

Greetings from the Rectory.

Reader Writes.

District News/Messages.

Mothers' Union.

*Short Quiz on the
Book of Exodus.
(new feature)*

For the Children!

and More.....



**The Lord is my light
and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?**

Psalm 27: 1

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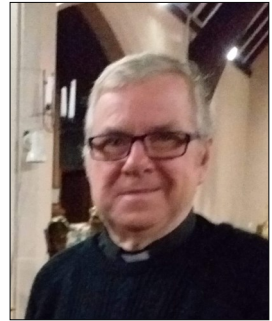
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Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

I hope that you are all well and have enjoyed a holy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Our celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, or Candlemas, at the beginning of February marked the end of our



Christmas-Epiphany, our celebrations of the miracle of the incarnation, of God coming to live among us in the person of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Already it is February, isn't that hard to believe, and our attention is drawn to the coming of season of Lent as the year stretches out before us.

As we look forward we look to a time of preparation that is Lent. During Lent we will prepare to travel with Jesus on his final journey to Jerusalem. We will witness once again the depth of his love for us as he gives himself to death on the Cross, as he sacrifices himself for our sins and we will celebrate the joy of the resurrection and the Good News that Jesus is alive.

It is a great comfort to know that the living Lord Jesus is with us, walking alongside us, encouraging and strengthening us as we journey through our own lives towards our eternal home in the Father's house in heaven. The Good News that in Jesus Christ the risen Lord, God is with us every day. We are strengthened as we walk

together in prayer and fellowship supporting one another in love and faith with Christ at our head. As we approach the beginning of Lent please keep a look out for details of our Lenten activities for this year and think about how we can prepare ourselves to mark Holy Week and Easter this year.

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

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The story of the Presentation is told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God.



"And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Spirit was upon him." **Luke 2 : 25**

Reader Writes.

When it comes to easy to read, girly books, my favourite author is Sophie Kinsella. Even though each story makes the reader laugh, sympathise, empathise or smile, there always appear to be a moral and moments when the author could be writing about any individual.



In her novel, *My Not So Perfect Life*, we meet Katie who was brought up on a farm in Somerset but who, after graduating moves to Birmingham. One day in work, she overhears girls mocking her accent and she decides to look for work in and move to London. Luckily she finds a job but to fit in with London life decides to change her name to Cat. She enjoys her job, but her boss appears very demanding, perfect, clever and outstanding in her work and one day, without any reason, Cat is given her P45. Not to run up any debt, Cat decides to return to Somerset where she is called Katie. Back home Katie and her family set up a successful glamping business at the farm and needless to say one of the visitors is her old boss Demetre (who, by now has also lost her job) and her family. During Demetre's visit, Katie not only discreetly has her own back on Demetre but through various circumstances sees another side to her – a weakened, insecure person, with children who are rude to her, do not appreciate all she does and even ignore her. Katie now feels sorry for Demetre, who has recognised her and tries to help her. Between the two women, they uncover the truth about what happened at their previous place of work and there is of course a happy ending with those who were unkind and responsible for all the wrongdoings losing their jobs and Katie and Demetre returning to the company.

Even though the above is only a fraction of the events in the book, there is a lot we can learn:-

1. Do not judge a book by its cover – people are not always how they appear to be. Demetre portrayed herself as being very confident when in fact she was quite insecure
2. Two wrongs do not make a right – in this book they caused great upset as first Katie lost her job and then Demetre.
3. Always be yourself – do not try to be someone you are not. Kate was successful not because of her name but because of her abilities.
4. Remember the Fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control – teach us how we should treat people in all circumstances and situations.

Oh and if you are interested, romance did appear in the book but only added to the story in a small way!!!

Carolyn

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2


Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.

The next day...




Why are you beating up one of your own people?

Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?




Moses had to run away from Egypt.



He went to Midian, got married and looked after his father-in-law's sheep.



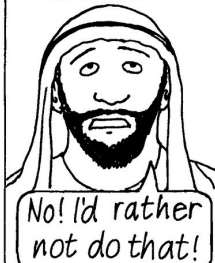
One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses' attention, He said..



You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people leave Egypt.



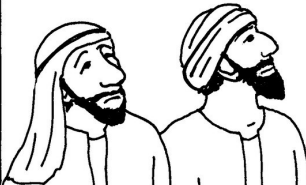
No! I'd rather not do that!



It's not a choice. Your brother Aaron can help you




Aaron and Moses met up and went to see Pharaoh



Our God says you must let all his people leave Egypt.



Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!



Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

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Caedmon, the poetic shepherd

Caedmon (d 680) should be the patron saint of all farmers who enjoy humming to themselves as they do the lambing this Spring. For Caedmon of Whitby was a bit like David in the Bible; he grew up as a simple herdsman out on the hills who enjoyed composing songs and poetry for himself while watching his flocks.

Like David, Caedmon also had a keen awareness of God, and used his creative gift to express his devotion and love for his Creator. When his poems and songs became known to others, they liked them so much that soon Caedmon left his sheep in order to become a monk. This

gave him time to compose many poems based on the stories in the Bible: from Creation and Genesis, to the Exodus and entry of the Jews into the promised land, to the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ, and finally to the future Last Judgement, Heaven, and Hell.

Then one day Caedmon suddenly announced that he knew he was going to die soon. And so he did, in a state of charity and peace with everyone. There was great mourning.

Sadly, only nine lines of his poetry have survived, and we have the great historian, Bede, to thank for even that much. But in his time, Caedmon's gift of telling Christian stories in the vernacular must have been of great value in evangelising the common folk.

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Sigfrid, apostle of Sweden



If you have something big to forgive, Sigfrid may be the saint for you. This monk from Glastonbury was sent by King Ethelred to Norway and Sweden in 995. The King of Norway, King Olaf, had recently converted to Christianity, and wanted help in converting his people.

Sigfrid went first to Vaxjo in Sweden, taking along his three nephews. There he built a small church, commissioned it, and consecrated his nephews as bishops. Then Sigfrid left them, in order to evangelise the more remote regions.

So far so good, but when Sigfrid returned, he found the church had been burned to the ground and his nephews murdered. The attackers had been caught, and the king was about to put them to death. It would be an act of justice.

Instead, Sigfrid pleaded with the king for mercy. It was agreed that a large fine should be paid to Sigfrid. He did not keep a penny for himself, but used it to rebuild the church, and continue the mission. Sigfrid went on to minister in Sweden, Norway and Denmark for many years, until his death in 1045. He was remembered with love and credited with many miracles.

Janani Luwum, Archbishop & martyr of Uganda

The Most Reverend Janani Luwum (d 1977) was the Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and Boga Zaire when 35 years ago this month he was murdered by the dictator Idi Amin. At the time the Church in Uganda was on the verge of centennial celebrations of its birth through the seed of the early Ugandan martyrs, and so Luwum became the first martyr of the second century of Christianity in Uganda. A statue of him stands in Westminster Abbey London.



Janani Luwum was greatly loved in Uganda. He was by all accounts an exceptional leader with a great personal godliness, a holistic vision, pastoral compassion and evangelistic fervour. Janani was born in 1922 at Mucwini in the Kitgum District of Uganda. He spent his childhood and early youth herding goats. Given an opportunity to attend a local school, he learned quickly, and was soon a teacher himself.

Janani Luwum was converted to Christianity on 1st January 1948, started at theological college in Buwalasi the following year, became a deacon in 1955 and was ordained a priest in 1956. He served in the upper Nile Diocese of Uganda and the diocese of Mbale, and was consecrated Bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969 and Archbishop of Uganda in 1974, three years after Idi Amin came to power in a military coup. His death was mourned by millions in East Africa.

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Learning to drive



As a learner driver in London, I was taking the road test for my driver's license. When someone cut me off, I held my temper so I wouldn't look out of control. "You have a lot to learn," said the inspector.

Then at a red light, the car behind me tapped my bumper. I still remained calm, but the inspector shook his head. When the light turned, I accelerated, but the car behind me then sped up and cut me off. That did it! I hit the horn as hard as I could.

The inspector turned to me, smiled, and said, "Now you're getting the hang of it."

Messages from our Churches and Community

Services for Lent and Holy Week 2024

A list of services in the district of Gelligaer, during Lent and Holy week, together with the readings will be available soon on our district website. All are warmly invited to attend any of these services and walk with Jesus to new life. If anyone wishes to access the information please use our website at,

www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk

use the link in the green box towards the top of the page 'Services for Lent and Holy Week 2024' when it becomes available.

Getting Involved during 2024

In 2024, we would like to develop our Churches and Community section of the magazine by inviting our readers to contribute towards our monthly magazines. All information about events, your thoughts and reflections or any relevant news are all welcomed.



If you feel you have something to offer and would like to contribute, please can you forward the information to myself via email (email: chriscorbin1961@gmail.com) or pass a hand written copy to Carolyn by the third week of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition.

Many Thanks, Chris.

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100 Club

Once again a very successful year. Monthly prizes given out to a total of £1,325. Fifty two lucky winners with six winning on two occasions. Anyone wishing to join us, please contact Joan in Gelligaer and Jeanette in Gilfach.

Thanks to all of our members.

Jenn



Social Committee

During 2023 we had a fantastic year, not only on the fundraising side but also bringing people together in the community, in friendship and laughter.

We are looking forward to the coming year, a list of events and dates have yet to be decided, so watch this space and also check out our page on the website (www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk) for dates for your diary.

June

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Looking at God - Parish Pump Quiz

This month we are launching a short ‘quiz’ to accompany the series on the books of the Bible. This will be a regular feature that runs throughout the year.

The quiz can be found on page 19.

<https://www.parishpump.co.uk>

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Hedgehog Houses at St. Catwg’s

It was fantastic to install some new hedgehog houses at St Catwg's Church in Gelligaer. The hedgehog houses will be a vital helping hand in the spring when hedgehogs look for places to nest.

Funded as part of the Gelligaer Community Council biodiversity project which is improving habitats across Gelligaer, Penybryn, Glyngaer, Penpedairheol (Cascade), Tiryberth, Glanynant, Cefn Hengoed, Hengoed, Ystrad Mynach, Tredomen and Penallta.

The hedgehog houses are built by local charity the Hedgehog Helpline who are the go to people for hedgehog help and information.



God in the Arts

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

God in Music

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

St Luke tells us in his Gospel that the angels sang praises to God at the birth of Jesus, and he has given us three poems that have become part of Christian song: the Magnificat, the Benedictus and the Nunc Dimittis.

The first two are full of praise and rejoicing. The last comes as Mary and Joseph fulfil the Law of Moses and bring the child Jesus to Jerusalem. In the temple they meet Simeon and Anna. Simeon represents each of us who can look back over life with gratitude in the face of death as he says, ‘Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace.’ It is a story that has inspired preachers and artists, and also composers.

In the Christian Church these words of the Nunc Dimittis have become part of worship at the end of each day, not just the end of life. Cathedral and parish church choirs have sung settings of these words in that great tradition of Anglican choral music at Evensong – settings that have captured the sense of quiet resignation, but also conveyed the glory of the light that is Jesus shining for all people. Rachmaninov’s setting is part of his Vespers, the night-long vigil sung in the Russian Orthodox Church on the eve of great feasts.

Rachmaninov composed the work (and it comprises 15 pieces) at great speed, but even so, the Vespers are now seen as one of the great masterpieces of religious music.

This was no more so than in his beautiful setting of the 5th canticle, the Nunc Dimittis. Just 36 bars long, it begins with a rocking, undulating figure in the upper voices. A solo tenor enters as the voice of Simeon, and it ends with the basses moving down to a low B flat: ‘a sigh of wonder and resignation on the threshold of eternal rest and peace,’ one critic has called it.

Rachmaninov later recalled, “After I played the passage at the end of the 5th canticle where the basses slowly descend to that low note, the conductor shook his head, saying, ‘Now where on earth will we find such basses? They are as rare as asparagus at Christmas!’ Nevertheless, he did find them.” It was one of the composer’s favourite pieces, and he

asked for it to be sung at his funeral in the hope that it would send his ‘ship of death gently towards the unknown region.’”

On 2nd February we shall hear these words as part of the Gospel on the feast of Candlemas. Simeon prays them because his cup is now overflowing. He has looked on the salvation of God. Music allows us to look on that glory and salvation also, and Rachmaninov, in his moving setting, has captured the calm trust of that moment, which shines out like the brightness of the light of Jesus.

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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.

Celebrating the now and future Creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. After creation’s winter shutdown, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, “Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction.” I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2024, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. In the face of climate change, we urgently need to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God’s help.

Our ultimate hope is in God’s promise that He will bring about a new heaven and a new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed.

There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2024 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

By Ruth Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

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20 years of Facebook

Twenty years ago, on 4th February 2004, Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched. Originally known as the facebook.com, it was intended by Mark Zuckerberg and four other Harvard students – Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes – to create “a directory of information for college students”, but it soon expanded, and each of the five co-founders developed different roles. All except Moskovitz are now not part of the Facebook empire, but all are extremely rich. A year after it was launched, Facebook lost the “the” from its name, and the following year it got rid of its students-only restriction. In its new form Zuckerberg, from an early stage the main man of Facebook, said the original aim was for Facebook users to take their online identities with them around the internet without having to register individual accounts for each website or app.

The swift development of Facebook, which went public in 2012, has involved Zuckerberg in many lawsuits, and he has demonstrated a wide-ranging ability to win people over. He is also extremely clever. He has never revealed his own political affiliation or voting history, and is hard to pin down. He was raised as a Reform Jew, went through a period when he espoused atheism, but more recently has said he “believes religion is very important”. In September last year his net worth was estimated at not far short of £50 billion, but he receives a one-dollar salary as CEO of Facebook, and he and his wife Priscilla Chan give away huge amounts of money, some of which goes to fighting antisemitism and backing educational and community initiatives. Facebook is banned in China. As of late September 2023, Forbes estimated Zuckerberg's net worth at about \$64.4 billion, making him the 16th-richest person in the world.



Mothers' Union



We started this year by changing our usual dates for several reasons. As the first Tuesday of the month was on the 2nd of January we thought it too early for members to recover from Christmas and get their finances in order to pay this year's subscriptions. We carried on with our coffee morning on the second Tuesday and then had our A.G.M. on the third Tuesday. Considering the weather and other commitments it was quite well attended. I went through the year's events and Deanery news which had already been given in our meetings and magazine issues. June gave the financial accounts and we could all see how well we had done over the last year. We had £1377.76 in the bank. We had a few donations especially at the Cheese and Wine Coronation evening but it shows that our coffee mornings, quiz afternoons and usual meetings are raising a considerable amount for the Mothers' Union. I thanked Fr. Gary for his continued support as I know that other branches do not have the support of their priest. We are very lucky.

Although we have a few members that have dropped out this year we still have the best membership in the Deanery. I totally understand why some members have not continued their membership as they are unable to attend most of the events we hold. However we are still seeking new members and hope to encourage more to join.

Although Gaynor is no longer a member I hope you will continue to pray for her. Jayne, her daughter, is keeping me updated on her condition. I called to see her at the beginning of January for her birthday but since then she has deteriorated considerably and now asks that only her close family visits her. She wants us to remember her as she was, not as she is at present. She has been diagnosed with Parkinsons and the hospice is involved in her care. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

We changed our quiz afternoon to the last Tuesday of the month as there was a funeral in church on our usual Tuesday. As I write this it will be next Tuesday, the 30th of January. On that day we have our Wave of Prayer at 10.45 a.m. and June has downloaded the service on the app. I had it sent to me to print but it was 12 pages long. Also I have been sent the Lent devotion for our Indoor members to print off

and deliver. Marion was our Indoor member but is no longer a member but I will give one to Olive.

We have a speaker for February's meeting and I am grateful to all who have given me names of possible speakers for the year. Please keep them coming and any ideas of events we could hold as a branch or as a Deanery.

God bless

Kath xx

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Oswald of Worcester: the saint for Leap Year

There is a saint for Leap Year: He is St Oswald of Worcester, who died on 29th February 992. His family story was extraordinary, and full of some surprising 'leaps', all by itself. It provides a tantalising glimpse of what happened to at least one of those pagan Viking warriors who settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

For Oswald's great-uncle had come to England c 865, as part of the 'Great Heathen Army' of Viking invaders. But his son, Oswald's uncle, Oda, forsook paganism, and not only converted to Christianity, but actually ended up as Archbishop of Canterbury. From there, Oda was in a position to help his nephew, Oswald, which he did.

Oda sent young Oswald to be educated at the abbey of Fleury, then a great centre of learning. There Oswald absorbed the Benedictine ideals which would guide his later life and work. Back in England, he became bishop of Worcester in 961, and with the support of King Edgar, eagerly joined in major reforms of the Anglo-Saxon church. In 972 Oswald was made Archbishop of York, and seems to have taken a great interest in renewing the church in the Danelaw. He founded Ramsey Abbey, which became one of the great Fenland monasteries.

Oswald was popular as an archbishop, and always washed the feet of the poor every Lent. On 29th February 992 he had just completed this service at Worcester when he collapsed and died. In later years, Worcester adopted both him and Wulfstan to be its two chief saints: they flank the tomb of King John, which is before the high altar in the cathedral.

Ash Wednesday:

A good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:



‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

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Portrait

A primary teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, “I’m drawing God.”

The teacher blinked: “But no one knows what God looks like.”

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, “They will in a minute.”

Torvill and Dean - and the Bolero that made Olympic history



Forty years ago, on 14th February 1984, figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal in ice dancing at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. They scored the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic history.

Both are from Nottingham and, despite the obvious chemistry between them, they have never been romantically involved with each other. Jayne is married, and Christopher is in a long-term relationship. Jayne was originally an insurance clerk and Dean a policeman, and they built up their ice partnership while working full-time – though they eventually received a grant from Nottingham City Council that enabled them to concentrate on their skating.

This was much like a full-time job. Christopher later described it as “obsessive...almost like being in a monastery. It was a religion in its own way”.

At Sarajevo they became the highest scoring figure skaters of all time for a single programme, which they skated to Ravel’s Bolero (it came in just within the time limit) and were awarded 12 perfect 6.0s – including a 6.0 from every judge for artistic impression – and six 5.9s. In 2002 this performance was voted into eighth place in a Channel 4 poll of the 100 Greatest Sporting Moments.

The pair turned professional after Sarajevo and won the world professional championships five times. Their innovations had a lasting impact on the sport, and in 2000 they were made OBEs for their outstanding contributions to skating and to British sport.

The National Ice Centre in Nottingham is now accessed through Bolero Square; a housing estate in the Wollaton area of the city contains a street named Torvill Drive and an adjoining one called Dean Close.

Quiz on the Book of Exodus

*How well do you know what happened in Exodus? Try this quiz!
(Answers on page 23)*

1. Who rescued Moses from the basket in the bulrushes?

- a. Pharaoh's daughter
- b. Pharaoh's maid
- c. Pharaoh's wife

2. How many plagues did God send on Egypt?

- a. 5
- b. 10
- c. 15

3. What was the second plague?

- a. frogs
- b. water turned to blood
- c. locusts

4. What is the name of the sea the Israelites crossed to escape the Egyptians?

- a. Dead Sea
- b. Black Sea
- c. Red Sea

5. At what place did the Israelites arrive to find the water was too bitter to drink and God made it sweet?

- a. Marah
- b. Elim
- c. Horeb

6. Which bird did God provide for meat in the wilderness?

- a. pigeon
- b. quail
- c. turtledove

7. What guided the Israelites through the wilderness?

- a. a star in the sky
- b. Moses had visions telling him where to lead the people
- c. a pillar of cloud and of fire

8. When there was no water to drink, how did Moses provide it?

- a. from earthen jars
- b. from his rod
- c. from a rock

9. On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments

- a. Mt. Sinai
- b. Mt. Nebo
- c. Mt. of Olives

10. What Is the seventh commandment?

- a. Thou shalt not covet
- b. Thou shalt not commit adultery
- c. Thou shalt not bear false witness

11. What was on top of the Ark of the Covenant?

- a. two cherubim
- b. candlestick
- c. Aaron's rod

12. What compelled the Israelites to form and worship the golden calf

- a. they wanted to make a statue to the Lord
- b. they made it as a symbol of their freedom from slavery
- c. they didn't know what had happened to Moses

13. What was the name of a man who was given the Spirit of God, to enable him to become a good craftsman, and assist with the building of the tabernacle?

- a. Caleb
- b. Bezaleel
- c. Buz

14. Who was Moses' successor?

- a. Joshua
- b. Caleb
- c. Aaron

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>2nd Feb</i>	THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (Candlemas)
<i>4th Feb</i>	THE SECOND SUNDAY <i>before</i> LENT: CREATION SUNDAY
<i>11th Feb</i>	THE SUNDAY <i>before</i> LENT: TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
<i>14th Feb</i>	ASH WEDNESDAY
<i>18th Feb</i>	THE FIRST SUNDAY <i>of</i> LENT
<i>25th Feb</i>	THE SECOND SUNDAY <i>of</i> LENT

Notices!

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union will meet again during 2024. We will continue with our monthly schedule of; 1st Tuesday of the month — Mothers Union Meeting, 2nd Tuesday — Coffee Morning and 4th Tuesday — Quiz afternoon. Please see our weekly district newsletter and website page for dates and times.

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!!*

March's Magazine 2024

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 26th February, for inclusion in the March's edition.

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

Sudoku Challenge

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

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Solution can be found on page 39

With Lent in mind...

Christianity is the total commitment of all I know of me to all I know of Jesus Christ. – **William Temple**

Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity. – **E H Chapin**

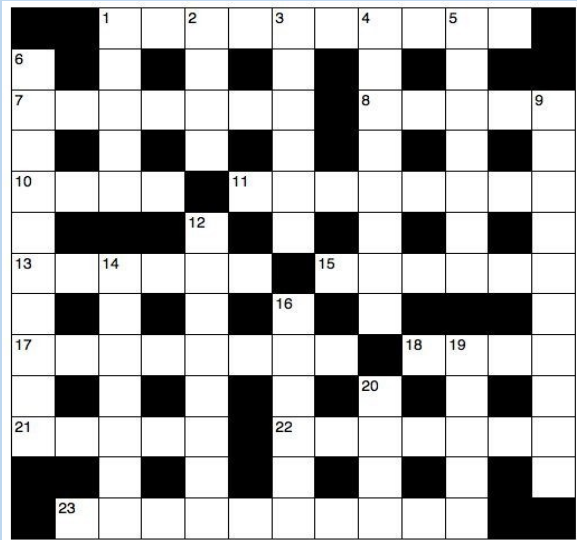
Great eagles fly alone; great lions hunt alone; great souls walk alone – alone with God. – **Leonard Ravenhill**

Miscellaneous observations on our life and faith...

The ‘heart’ in the biblical sense is not the inward life, but the whole man in relation to God. – **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Whenever you read the Gospel, Christ Himself is speaking to you. And while you read, you are praying and talking to Him. – **St Tikhon of Zadonsk**

February's Crossword



Challenge

Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that ‘he walked with God’ (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

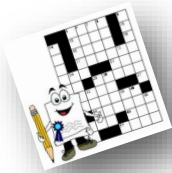
Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)

- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

Crossword solution - Page 39

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



Quiz on the Book of Exodus

Answers:

Question 1: a (Pharaoh's daughter)

Question 2: b (10)

Question 3: b (Water turned to blood)

Question 4: c (Red Sea)

Question 5: a (Marah)

Question 6: b (Quail)

Question 7: c (A pillar of cloud and of fire)

Question 8: c (From a rock)

Question 9: a (Mt. Sinai)

Question 10: b (Thou shalt not commit adultery)

Question 11: a (Two cherubim)

Question 12: c (They didn't know what had happened to Moses)

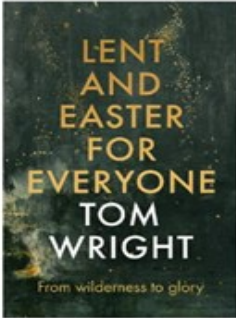
Question 13: b (Bezaleel)

Question 14: a (Joshua)

Book Reviews

Lent and Easter for Everyone - from Wilderness to Glory

By Tom Wright, SPCK, £10.79



Join Tom Wright on a transformative journey through the Gospels, as he explores the life and impact of Jesus. Offering seven weeks' worth of daily readings and reflections, the book enables you to relive Christ's journey - from His temptations in the wilderness to the darkness of the cross and beyond, into the glory of Easter.

Whether used individually or in groups, Lent and Easter for Everyone can be a trusted companion, encouraging spiritual growth, deepening understanding, and fostering a renewed sense of hope and purpose in your Christian journey.

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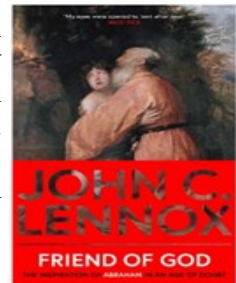
Friend of God - the Inspiration of Abraham in an Age of Doubt

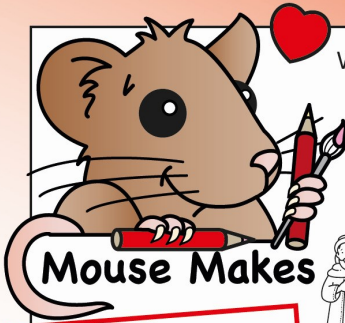
By John C Lennox, IVP, £14.36

Abraham is the only character in the Bible to be described as 'the friend of God'. This comprehensive study by John Lennox explores why.

Abraham is unquestionably one of the most outstanding and influential figures in world history. He had no political or military achievements, and he left no literary remains, yet today billions of people - more than half of the world's population - claim him as their spiritual father.

Throughout the Bible, Abraham is seen as a pivotal figure in God's plan of salvation. In this richly detailed account of his life and times, John Lennox helps us to see through mists of the past to the real flesh-and-blood man, with all his strengths and weaknesses, to better appreciate all that Abraham stands for as a model of faith today.





Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?
 _____ and _____
 Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

_____ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ADAM | ELIZABETH |
| ABRAHAM | MARY |
| ISAAC | HANNAH |
| JACOB | PRISCILLA |
| BOAZ | EVE |
| ZECHARIAH | RUTH |
| ELKANAH | REBEKAH |
| AQUILA | RACHEL |
| JOSEPH | SARAH |

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
 MFU OPU NBO
 TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
 UFO WFTSF
 OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
 See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

From the Register

Christian Funerals

January 2024

8th	Godfrey Jones RIP
12th	Melvyn Pearce RIP
15th	Rikki Wheaton RIP
17th	Teresa Roberts RIP
19th	David Wicks RIP
23rd	James Saunders RIP
24th	Thomas Matthews RIP
25th	Owen Jones RIP
26th	Yvonne Evans RIP
26th	Gaynor Patterson RIP
29th	Patricia Broad RIP
30th	Ann Shaw 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

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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.*

-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.*

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Please Contact:

Christine Harvey: 01443 833123



Christine Harvey 01443 833123 /

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

January 2024		February 2024		March 2024	
7 th	Cheryl Pugh	4 th	Pat Davies	3 rd	Christine Harvey
14 th	Janeve Manca	11 th	Paul Thomas	10 th	Joan Jenkins
21 st	Christine Harvey	18 th	Cheryl Pugh	17 th	Pat Davies
28 th	Joan Jenkins	25 th	Janeve Manca	24 th	Paul Thomas
				31 st	Cheryl Pugh

St. Margaret's Readers Rota

January 2024		February 2024		March 2024	
7 th	June Phillips	4 th	Kath Llewellyn	3 rd	June Phillips
14 th	Alex Ball	11 th	Christine Thorpe	10 th	Jenn East
21 st	Enid Mayne	18 th	Enid Mayne	17 th	Jennette Jones
28 th	Chris Ball	25 th	Huw Thomas	24 th	Linda Bartlett
				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

January 2024			February 2024			March 2024		
7	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	4	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	3	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
14	Lynda Trollope	Enid	11	Lynda Trollope	Enid	10	Lynda Trollope	Enid
21	Jennette	Audrey	18	Jennette	Audrey	17	Jennette	Audrey
28	Kath	June	25	Kath	June	24	Kath	June
						31	Lynda Bartlett	Sue

For the Younger Generation.

The gardener and the Vine

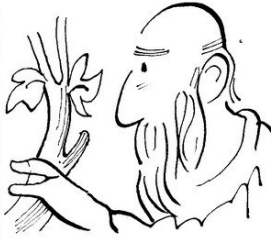


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY..

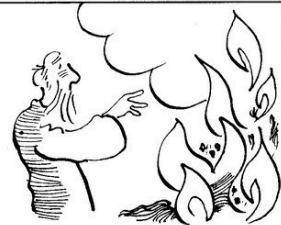
... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...



...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

Complete the Wordsearch!

h	g	n	l	c	h	a	n	g	e	n	n
s	j	c	a	t	t	e	n	t	i	o	n
h	k	n	h	p	t	i	d	a	m	b	r
e	j	j	y	o	n	e	t	h	o	u	k
e	a	g	p	r	i	n	c	e	s	s	i
p	e	a	u	r	u	c	u	b	e	h	l
s	f	b	r	o	t	h	e	r	s	u	l
i	u	a	m	o	o	o	l	e	a	v	e
n	m	o	t	a	n	b	c	w	o	x	d
a	j	c	r	h	p	e	o	p	l	e	x
i	o	a	y	j	e	m	i	d	i	a	n
u	p	n	e	v	e	r	u	n	y	d	o

change
 burning
 choice
 Moses
 father
 leave
 Egypt
 bush

attention
 mountain
 Paraoth
 sheep
 run
 Hebrew
 body
 Sinai

brother
 killed
 Midian
 Aaron
 princess
 married
 people
 never

Colour in!

Pancake Day, Feb 13th



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

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.

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

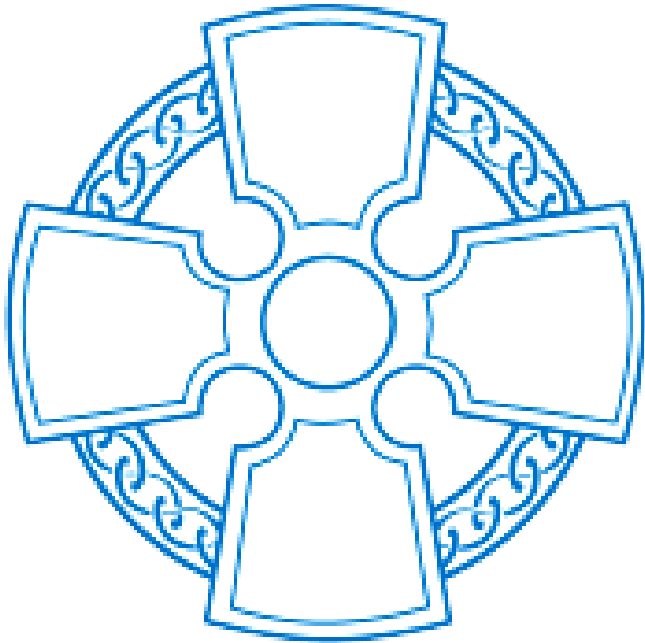
Answer to **Sudoku** on page 21

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

Answers to **Crossword** on page 22



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
TÂF RHYMNI
TAFF RHYMNEY
MINISTRY AREA



*This Publication was produced and printed by the Taff Rhymney Ministry Area,
District of Gelligaer. 2024*